The Literary Digest

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 31, 1932

TOPICS OF THE DAY

The New "Shot-in-the-Arm" Farm Plan

"A SHOT IN THE ARM."

That's how the father of the latest proposal in farm legislation views his bill.

"It is intended as a shot in the arm pending more permanent adjustment of such burdens as the farm-mortgage situation, trade barriers, and taxes."

Thus, Representative Jones, Texas Democrat, describes his "domestic-allotment" measure for giving more money to the farmer at the cost of higher prices for bread, clothing, pork, tobacco, etc., for the rest of us.

The argument is that the prosperous farmers would at once start buying what the rest of us produce, make industry hum again, and make the h. c. l. worth all it costs, and more too.

Some such measure is certain to become law at the next session of Congress, say Washington correspondents.

A Study in Comparisons

—Smith in the San Francisco "Examiner."

HERE we have what promises to become a major issue of American politics. For several weeks the clouds have been gathering, and now the storm is raging in Washington. That it will rise to even greater heights and continue for months, all observers agree. Where now squads and companies are fighting, battalions and regiments of farmers, politicians, editors, business men, and consumers are preparing to swing into action.

Condemned by one side as a dangerous, Socialistic, economically unsound device, the voluntary domestic-allotment plan is praised by its sponsors as the best method yet advanced to lift agriculture out of the doldrums and so restore general prosperity.

Many farm leaders already are alined behind the plan, others are inclining toward it, and political observers say that this is what President-elect Roosevelt really had in mind when he made his Topeka speech during the Presidential campaign.

Far-reaching in its effects, the proposal is so complicated that one expert, after listening to half a dozen explanations of it, sadly confessed that "it is just as clear as mud to me."

But a good many people saw instantly that this was not going to be advantageous to them. Millers, packers, cotton-millmen, tobacco manufacturers are quick to protest. One of them warns that if the bill becomes law we are likely to have something new in the way of crime—the food bootlegger.

"We believe," said Fred J. Lingham, representing the Millers' National Federation, "that unless there was a policeman beside every grinding mill, there would be bootlegging of flour."

The bill really aims to relieve the farmer "by taxing the city consumer an additional billion dollars a year," according to Henry M. Hyde, Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Evening Sun*. In a dispatch about the hearing on the Jones bill before the House Committee on Agriculture, he says that—

"Housewives may be interested to know that if the so-called domestic-allotment bill for farm relief is passed—as is very likely—they will pay $252,000,000 more a year for the flour that goes into bread.

"People who buy pork products will pay $320,000,000 over the present price.

"People who wear cotton cloth will be taxed something like $150,000,000.

"Men—and women—who use tobacco will pay a new tax of about $250,000,000.

"All these additions to the selling price of wheat, pork, cotton, and tobacco will be collected from consumers when they buy their household supplies.

"Like most previous plans for relieving the farmer, this domestic-allotment plan is complicated.

"Under its provisions—which may yet be changed—every farmer who wants to may get from some local agent of the Secretary of Agriculture a contract stating how many acres of wheat, cotton, and tobacco he may plant, and how many hogs he may raise during the next year.

"If he lives up to this allotment contract the farmer may, when he markets his crop, get from the agent of the Secretary of Agriculture what is called an adjustment certificate. These certificates will call for the payment by the Secretary of Agriculture of forty-two cents a bushel on the amount of wheat sold, five cents a pound on cotton, four cents a pound on tobacco, and two cents a pound on hogs.

"These sums are to be originally paid by and collected from the millers, the meat packers, the cotton mills, and the tobacco factories, who first handle the raw materials.

"The cost of making the original allotments to some 6,000,000 farmers, the cost of checking up to see that each lives up to his allotments, the cost of collecting about a billion dollars from the millers and other processors, and, later, of distributing it among the farmers, will all come out of the money collected."

AN allotment plan that would increase the farm income by $800,000,000 to $6,000,000,000 "would cost the average consumer about $7.70 annually, or $34.60 for the average family of 3.4 persons if the excise taxes in full were passed down." So writes Bernhard Ostrolenk in the New York *Times*, telling us that "in the case of a loaf of bread, the increased cost would be about one cent."

"The voluntary allotment plan," says the Houston *Chronicle* in a further explanation, "visualizes a subsidy for those farmers

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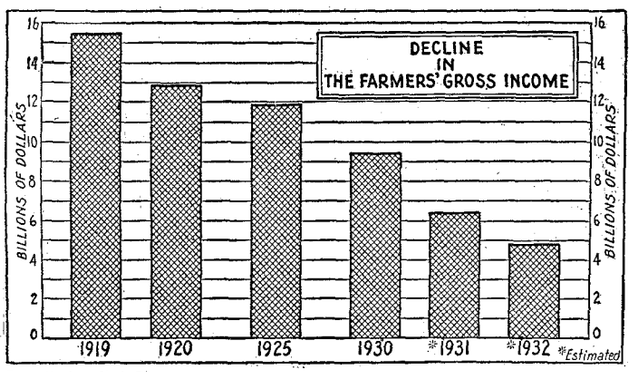
who will reduce their production of certain staples now over-produced"—

"The subsidy would vary, diminishing as prices mount, the idea being that with a reward given for acreage reduction the supply of the staple in question would decrease, and the price thereby automatically be advanced.

"The entire process would be under the protection of a tariff wall. The costs would be immediately passed on to the trade in the commodity affected, the traders being compelled to pass it on to the general public, no payments from the Federal Treasury being contemplated.

"The proponents of this plan argue that it will accomplish two essential purposes, increase farm prices, and so solve all questions of mortgages and taxes and low living standards, and at the same time produce the required balance between supply and demand necessary to maintaining sound conditions."

A tentative measure, the Jones bill may be supplanted by another version of the allotment plan, which, in its most favored



From the New York *Times*

Why the Farmer Needs Help

form, according to Owen L. Scott of the Consolidated Press Association, was worked out by Prof. M. L. Wilson of Montana State College and has the backing of Henry I. Harriman, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

One of the powerful organizations fighting to put the plan on the statute books is the American Farm Bureau Federation. Its president, Edward A. O'Neal, is quoted by Mr. Scott:

"Our plan for securing the advantage of the American market for American producers must contemplate, as a fundamental step, an effort at controlling production. We, therefore, propose that in applying the principles set forth in this plan, allotments shall be made to States on the basis of average past production in several crops in order that any State may reap the advantage of such curtailment of production as it may desire to make.

"This plan offers unquestioned advantages.

"It avoids all conflict with foreign antidumping laws. It thus eliminates the dangers of evasion and bootlegging. It removes the incentive for increasing production from the fact that adjustment premiums are paid only on the part of the crop consumed in this country.

"In administration the plan is simple and workable. It requires no large governmental appropriations and need not add to the Federal pay-rolls. It does not attempt any regulation of the individual farmer's freedom of action. It does, however, hold out to him a reward for his cooperative endeavor."

But foes of the plan are quick to shout their disagreement. At their very first hearing before the House Committee, notes Lawrence Sullivan in the Washington *Post*, they raised "the prospect of a new army of 25,000 Federal police scattered throughout the country to check crop quotas"—

"Besides placing some 4,000,000 farms under a direct system of Federal surveillance, the scheme would require vast and costly checking systems at every flour-mill, cotton textile-plant, and slaughter-house in the country to enforce the proposed processing tax, the witnesses suggested."

Spokesmen for millers and some sections of the textile industry condemned the plan as unworkable. Packers said it would be disastrous to them, since it would place a 60 per cent. sales tax on their products, and consumers would shift to competitive foods.

Editors have plenty to say about this latest farm-relief scheme. Some condemn it outright. Others praise it. A third group is torn between doubt and hope, fearing both the condition and the proposed remedy.

"Now, it's 'allotment' after a five hundred million Farm Board fiasco!" snorts the Macon *Telegraph*. "It is hard for us to realize that the farmer has been helped mighty nigh to death. But he has." And in the same cotton State, the Atlanta *Constitution* declares:

"Unquestionably, the allotment plan is too complicated, involves too much direct governmental interference with the conduct of the business of both the farmer and the manufacturer, to offer reasonable assurance of sound farm relief.

"It is a principle that should be actively and energetically opposed by the Senators and Representatives from the cotton-growing and manufacturing States."

"Dangerously near the collectivism of the Socialist," is this allotment plan, asserts the Brooklyn *Times-Union*, and the New York *Journal of Commerce* brands it as "the greatest attack which the postwar period has seen drawn up against the existing system."

"The plan may serve to raise prices artificially for a time," thinks the Syracuse *Post-Standard*, "but is unsound because it attempts to raise one group of prices at the expense of others and does not meet the major problem of reducing debts."

But there are other views.

"The domestic allotment plan for starting industrial price recovery at the bottom may not be a perfect plan," remarks the Cleveland *News*, "but it is the most intelligent now offered."

And "something will have to be done," the Brooklyn *Eagle* points out, "for agriculture has met an emergency that existing means will not surmount."

This plan, like "the earlier farm panaceas," says the Washington *News*, "approaches the problem from the wrong end"—

"We shall continue to support tariff reduction, which seems to us the only effective method, but so long as industry gets its high tariff subsidy we do not see how the country can fairly oppose the farmers' bid for a compensating subsidy of some kind.

"One thing is certain, the United States is not going to get far out of this depression until it finds some way to lift the millions of submerged farmers."

"It will readily be seen that the plan is open to grave abuses," observes Walter Lippmann in one of his copyrighted articles in the New York *Herald Tribune:*

"The first and most obvious is that the politicians will attempt to collect the tax, pass it along to the farmers, and then forget about the limitation of production. In that event the plan would be sheer special privilege like the payments to veterans who suffered no injury in the war. If the courts accepted such a mutilated bill, a new and vicious subsidy would have been established.

"The second abuse, which should be clearly envisaged, is that once the plan is in operation Congress will be under constant pressure to increase the bounties as it is under pressure to raise tariff duties.

"The third abuse which threatens is that Congress might refuse to suspend the plan when farm prices rose to the prewar ratio. For this plan would create a vested agricultural interest politically more powerful than the vested manufacturing interests.

"The allotment plan has all the faults of protection and all the complexities of State socialism. There is no use pretending that this is not the most daring economic experiment ever seriously proposed in the United States. But what other remedy is proposed for the plight of agriculture that might be substituted for this one?"

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Rival Knives Out for the Veterans' Pie

THAT BILLION-DOLLAR PIE served by Uncle Sam to his veterans is again in jeopardy.

Other nephews are staging a determined fight to keep the ex-soldiers from getting such a generous helping from the depleted national larder.

We simply can't afford to hand out that billion dollars a year, they declare, hammering home the point that it is one-fourth the entire national budget.

Focal center of the movement to reduce veterans' costs is the joint Congressional committee named to study possible economies. And it has been receiving plenty of suggestions for drastic reductions.

Take the recommendations of Frank T. Hines, administrator of veterans' affairs. He told the committee that restriction of relief to those who actually suffered in the war would eventually save more than one billion dollars. This is because the number of veterans seeking treatment for non-service disabilities is rapidly increasing.

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He'd Cut Off a Billion

From veterans' costs by restricting relief to those who actually suffered in the war—Gen. Frank T. Hines, administrator of veterans' affairs.

BUT even more drastic was General Hines' second major recommendation, and it started a row. This plan, notes the Washington *Evening Star*, is for "prohibition of disability allowances to all veterans not permanently disabled to a degree of 50 per cent." The saving is estimated at $51,344,000 the first year. In all, 356,555 would be dropt from the disability rolls.

But Senator Robinson, Indiana Republican, an advocate of liberal treatment of veterans, challenged the equity of the proposal. Quoting *The Evening Star:*

"Robinson said if 'you cut out the present 25 per cent. disability cases you get back right where we started from with grave injustices.'

"Hines said that veterans disabled less than 50 per cent., under the change, would either have to be assisted in getting employment or helped by local communities if they could not find jobs.

"'There is no employment to get,' Robinson said.

"Hines replied:

"'If a man is able to carry on, and certainly he is if he is only 25 per cent. disabled, the Federal Government should not be called on to aid him.'"

Next, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States submitted to the committee a proposal to save more than $400,000,000 in veterans' costs in the fiscal year 1934, without reducing by "a single dollar" payment to those who incurred disability in war service or to dependents of the soldier dead. It advocates:

"Denial of compensation for all disabilities not clearly proved to be service-connected.

"Repeal of legislation granting hospitalization for disabilities not attributable to service.

"Limiting government life insurance to the purpose for which it was undertaken.'

"Placing compensation-paid dependents on a basis of necessity and service-connected disability or death.

"Returning disabled emergency officers to a disability-compensation status.

"Placing veterans' relief legislation on a scientific basis with consequent reduction in administrative costs."

The savings outlined from such changes were:

"Spanish-American War pensions, $112,843,000.

"Compensation for presumptive disabilities, $75,000,000.

"Allowances for non-service connected disabilities, $104,278,000.

"Emergency officers' retirement pay, $6,798,000.

"Hospitalization, $40,000,000.

"Hospital construction, $5,000,000.

"Reinstatement of military and Navy insurance, $40,000,000.

"Administration, $20,000,000."

EDITORS around the country seem agreed that something must be done to decrease the enormous costs of caring for the veterans. The country is not ungrateful; it simply hasn't the money is the burden of many an editorial.

"The Government is still paying pensions on account of a war that took place 122 years ago, and has averaged payments of a hundred millions a year for the last three years on account of the Civil War, ended sixty-eight years ago," notes the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin.* "So it can not be accused either of ingratitude or forgetfulness."

"The people are grateful to all who served in any capacity in the World War," agrees the Kansas City *Star*, "but the taxpayers are victims of loose, ill-advised, and extravagant legislation by which many who served only in peace times and have incurred disabilities unconnected with the service have become beneficiaries."

While few, if any, editors are fighting for maintenance of present payments to veterans, the argument for the other side is put forth in a statement issued by legislative representatives of veterans at Washington.

This statement accuses the Chamber of Commerce and the National Economy League of circulating "unfair and misleading propaganda . . . intended to prejudice the average citizen and taxpayer against veterans." It proceeds:

"Where does the money come from that is paid to veterans? From the Federal Government which receives it as the result of income-tax payments and certain indirect taxes as the result of tariff and license legislation. The great bulk of it comes from income tax.

"The Treasury Department statistics for the prosperous year 1928 show there were 4,070,000 persons who paid Federal income taxes for that year. Ninety-nine per cent. paid only one-fifth of the total taxes. In other words, one per cent. or 40,700 people paid four-fifths of the income taxes, amounting to $1,080,000,000. The statistics further prove that for each $1 the average income-tax payer paid to the Federal Government, the big taxpayer paid $330.

"This clearly proves that the opposition to the payment of veterans' pensions comes from that group of 40,700 who constitute 'Big Business.' Incidentally, the total net income of this group as disclosed for the year 1928 was $6,309,000,000.

"The truth of the matter is these 40,700 big income-tax payers are trying to relieve themselves of the burden of paying veterans' pensions and place upon the communities the responsibility of caring for the aged and disabled veterans, their widows, and dependents.

"Those who do pay Federal income taxes can afford to do so. Most of these fortunes were made during a war period while the service men were undergoing the rigors and hardships of Army and Navy service."

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The Hoover Debt-Talk Gesture

PERHAPS PRESIDENT HOOVER HIMSELF was surprized at the very friendly reception the country gave his suggestion for another war-debt commission.

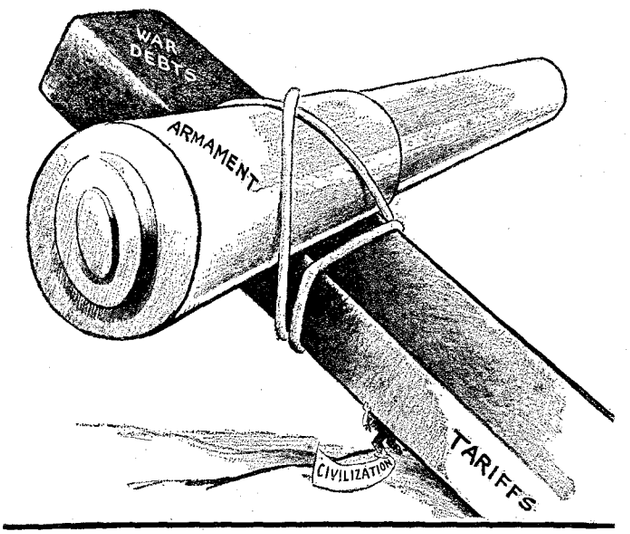
Perhaps it was the Christmas spirit.

Anyway, papers of both parties called the message sensible, sane, friendly, patriotic, conscientious, and generally indorsed the Hoover idea that President-elect Roosevelt should cooperate in the appointment of the commission so that its members could get to work before next March.

Mr. Roosevelt, however, discovered insurmountable obstacles in the way of the plan, and it was abandoned after the suggestion had aroused lively discussion in the press.

Of course, the most vigorous foes of debt readjustment take this opportunity to hit at the President for conceding that anything might be conceded to our debtors.

Since Mr. Hoover could hardly have expected much cooperation from Congress in view of its well-known attitude on war debts, to say nothing of the political situation, it seems to Theodore C. Wallen of the New York *Herald Tribune* that the message was designed in large part "as a dramatic and constructive medium of public invitation to Governor Roosevelt to cooperate."



His Cross of Gold

—Talburt in the Washington "Daily News."

BUT President Hoover's efforts to win Mr. Roosevelt's cooperation in dealing with the war-debt problem were finally abandoned, after an exchange of telegrams which were later made public. As a result, reports the United Press, the President will not appoint a commission to go over the debt problem, but will pursue a "hands-off" policy for the rest of his Administration.

In his first telegram the President outlined his plan for a war-debts commission, and concluded: "I should be glad if you could join me in the selection of such a delegation."

Mr. Roosevelt declined, saying:

"I think you will recognize that it would be unwise for me to accept an apparent joint responsibility with you when, as a matter of constitutional fact, I would be wholly lacking in any attendant authority."

The President telegraphed again, urging Mr. Roosevelt to reconsider, and explaining that he had "no intention of committing the incoming Administration to any particular policy prior to March 4."

In reply Mr. Roosevelt again rejected the President's proposal, on the ground that "for me to accept any joint responsibility in the work of exploration might well be construed by the debtor or other nations as a commitment, moral even tho not legal, as to policies and courses of action."

A White House statement conceded the failure of the negotiations, stating that Governor Roosevelt's wishes would be respected, and that "no commitments will be made for the next Administration." At which the Governor declared himself "rather surprized," and said he had told the President that he would be glad to consult in connection with "preliminary studies" of the "foreign problems" under discussion.

THE President's message was read to Congress while the President-elect was having a long mid-day conference with that eminent Democratic authority on war debts and foreign relations, Mr. Owen D. Young. But no reporter at Albany was able to draw from either Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Young any admission that this was more than sheer coincidence.

The first half of the Hoover message of December 19 is a discussion of the world-wide depression with an admission that the war debts have entered into the situation. Considering that there is, then, some tie-up between war debts and the pending conferences on economic conditions and disarmament, Mr. Hoover remarks that:

"The ideal way would, therefore, seem to be that some of our representatives in these matters should be selected at once who can perform both these functions of preparing for the world economic conference, and should exchange views upon the debt questions with certain nations at once, and advise upon the course to be pursued as to others. It would be an advantage for some of them to be associated with the arms conference. Some part of the delegates appointed for this purpose could well be selected from the members of the Congress.

"Discussions in respect to both debt questions and the world economic conference can not be concluded during my administration, yet the economic situation in the world necessitates the preliminary work essential to its success. The undertaking of these preliminary questions should not be delayed until after March 4.

"I propose, therefore, to seek the cooperation of President-elect Roosevelt in the organization of machinery for advancement of consideration of these problems."

Senator Borah comes out definitely for reconsideration of the debts only as one item in a program for the world's economic recovery.

On the other hand, Democratic Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi can "see no reason why the debts should be mixed up with reparations and armaments."

A number of Republican papers like the President's renewal of attack on the subject as proof that in spite of his defeat for reelection he does not, in the words of the Philadelphia *Evening Public Ledger*, "intend to shirk his job."

THE big significance of the message, according to William Philip Simms of the Scripps-Howard papers, "is that it is regarded as having paved the way for the French Chamber to reverse its vote when it overthrew Premier Herriot, and authorize Premier Paul-Boncour, his successor, to remove the blot on France's hitherto unsullied credit." It is also being remarked in Washington, says this writer, that the message "was frankly designed to start going a program of world recovery admittedly vital and stupendous in scope":

"Behind the scenes in Washington there is no attempt to minimize the danger of allowing the present situation to drift.

"Delay, it is felt, would almost certainly soon destroy the last vestige of hope for fruitful cooperation among the principal nations in the directions of arms reduction, world economic readjustment, and intergovernmental debt revision."

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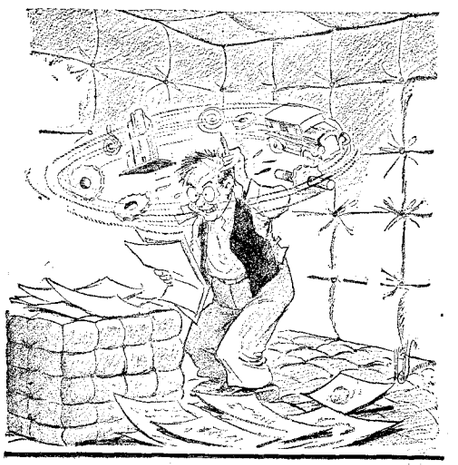
Technocracy—Boon, Blight, or Bunk?

TECHNOCRACY IS ALL THE RAGE.

All over the country it is being talked about, explained, wondered at, praised, damned.

It is found about as easy to explain—at least by the average editor—as the Einstein theory of relativity.

Perhaps that is because it is a combination of several things. The basic idea now being advanced by its spokesmen is that the advance of the machine age is forcing overproduction and underemployment at such a rapid, accelerating rate that our industrial civilization with its tremendous burden of money debt is bound to collapse within a very few years unless we change the whole scheme of things. And this doesn't mean merely Socialism or even Communism. In the words of Howard Scott, whom we may call the Lord High Technocrat, it means complete abolition of the "price system," which would include the end of all banks, all philanthropy, "all bonds, and other instrumentalities of debt."



Technocrazy

—Summers in the Cleveland "News."

IN a narrower sense, Technocracy, to quote Mr. Scott again, "is a research organization, founded in 1920, composed of scientists, technologists, physicists, and biochemists." This group, of which Mr. Scott is the leader, "was organized to collect and collate data on the physical functioning of the social mechanism on the North American continent, and to portray the relationship of this continent and the magnitude of its operations in quantitative comparison with other continental areas of the world."

Technocracy, explains Mr. Scott in his *Living Age* article, which he calls the only official statement, is establishing a new technique in social mensuration, "that is to say, a process for determining the rates of growth of all energy-consuming devices within the limits of the next most probable energy state." Mr. Scott is generally credited with originating the new "theory of energy determinants," altho press investigators have traced the basic idea back to the late Thorstein Veblen.

THE Technocracy group are now carrying on what they call an "Energy Survey of North America," which has been given room in Columbia University, and is furnishing employment to a number of otherwise jobless draftsmen.

The Technocracy argument is that technology has so outdistanced our whole political, economic, business, and social set-up that the only salvation is to scrap everything and turn the control over to the technologists. There will be an entirely new unit of value based on energy consumption. "Any unit of measurement under technological control would be a certification of available energy converted." But when it comes to explaining how the change is to be made, Mr. Scott becomes rather more vague than usual. As he puts it: "Technocracy proposes no solution, it merely poses the problem raised by the technological introduction of energy factors in a modern industrial social mechanism."

But it is explained by this gentleman in a *Harper's Magazine* article that we are standing on the threshold of "what is simultaneously opportunity and disaster." On the disaster side, "the mills of the gods have ground almost their allotted time, and they have ground exceedingly fine"—

"The spectacle of a New Jersey rayon factory now being designed to run eventually without human labor, save for one man at the switchboard, is more than a warning of further unemployment, more than a notice to competitors that a rival has lowered his production cost to a minimum."

IT is proof, in Mr. Scott's modest way of putting it, that "the bankers, the industrialists, the Marxists, the Fascists, the economists, the soldiers, and the politicians are things of the past."

This looks pretty serious, especially when bolstered up with scores of instances and reams of figures showing the tremendous rate at which machines are displacing workers. Some of the interpreters of Technocracy predict 20,000,000 unemployed next winter, and the complete collapse of civilization in the spring of 1934.

Here is the cheerful side. As the Technocracy experts are quoted by Wayne W. Parrish in *The New Outlook:* "Man in his age-long struggle for leisure and the elimination of toil has finally arrived at that position where for the first time this goal is not only possible but probable." It is pointed out that in such a complete self-sufficient area as North America, "with what is known of technology to-day in this country, it is now necessary for the adult population, ages twenty-five to forty-five, to work but 660 hours per year, per individual, to produce a standard of living for the entire population ten times the average income of 1929." But we can not attain this golden age of leisure without scrapping our present economic and financial machinery. "Technology has written 'mene, mene, tekel, upharsin' across the face of the price system."

Without ever once mentioning the word Technocracy, the magazine *Fortune* discusses this problem of "obsolete men." It sees the new power revolution about "to replace man permanently as a source of energy, and to install him in a new and limitable function as a tender of machines." Whereas it has been assumed that men thrown out of work by labor-saving machines can find employment sooner or later in new industries, we are now, in the words of the Secretary of Labor, in 1927, "developing new machinery at a faster rate than we have been developing new industries." And while the spread-work plan is helping in the present emergency, "as a permanent device it is evident that if the rate of mechanization continues to rise, as it is now rising, a time will shortly be reached when the rationing of the residuum of work among the total number of wage-earners with corresponding cuts in real wages would result in no wage-earner receiving a living wage."

Perhaps that is enough to give an idea of the assertions that are being echoed or challenged in the editorial columns of practically every newspaper in the country. *The Nation* calls it all "the first step toward a genuine revolutionary philosophy for America." The president of the Case School of Applied Science in Cleveland says that certain of Mr. Scott's facts may be wrong, "but the total picture is substantially true."

AND now for the critics of Technocracy.

Let us hear first from such an authority as Dr. Walter R. Ingalls, president of the American Institute of Weights and Measures:

"Convalescing business has been hit below the belt by a pseudo-scientific fist, armed with the brass knuckles of an imposing but meaningless scientific jargon. Technocracy has

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presented a multitude of alarming conclusions, but has withheld supporting facts."

The sharpest challenge of all, perhaps, comes from John H. Van Deventer, editor of *The Iron Age*. First he hits the Technocracy statistics. As an authority on the iron and steel business, he says flatly: "Instead of productivity in pig-iron having increased 650 times in fifty years, as technocracy claims, it has increased 23.2 times." Mr. Van Deventer declares that the technocracy spokesmen have similarly exaggerated the acceleration of technological unemployment in other lines. Then he gives figures of his own to show that instead of the machine driving the people out of work, it makes work for them:

"In 1930, we find the density of employment greater instead of less after thirty years of our most intensive mechanization. For there were then 398 breadwinners for each thousand of our population as contrasted with 383 in 1900. A net gain of fifteen workers per 1,000 of population during the thirty-year period."

Such figures should prove conclusively, in Mr. Van Deventer's opinion, "that machinery, with its continuous record of multiplying working opportunities, is not the cause of the depression." He quotes approvingly this statement by the New York *Times:*

"The glut in primary commodities is not the result of too many machines, but of too many acres of coffee, rubber, beef, wool. It is not the result of technology, but of human miscalculation. For nearly two hundred years the machine has been operating to enrich the existence of the world's masses. It is silly, on the basis of three years of hard times, to announce that the machine has suddenly become man's destroyer."

Some critics are ironic. "All that the elaborate technical rumble-bumble of the 'Technocratic' statistics shows is the fact that by the use of power machinery men can produce much more per man hour than they could by hand labor, especially in the United States," according to *The Business Week*, which wonders what there is new about that. But the business man, we are told, "disturbed and puzzled by the difficulties of a prolonged depression, is unprepared when the Technocrats mumble some obscure mumbo-jumbo about 'energy determinants' and 'decision arrivation' over him, pronounce the doom of the 'price system' with the portentous finality of a papal bull itself, and sentence him and business to death."

The Technocracy people, continues *The Business Week* ignore the actual increase in our working population, the shifts in occupation created by new demands of new industries—

"They say nothing about the constant demand for labor created by obsolescence of business methods, industrial processes, products, and equipment, under pressure of changing social standards of living, or the constant shift of workers from the mechanical industries to the service businesses—nothing except to condemn it all as wasteful of natural resources.

"They say nothing about the possibilities of raising standards of living and demand for industrial products in undeveloped countries, except to dismiss it as impossible because there is not energy enough available—a strange thing for engineers and scientists to say when they know that any day may see new sources of energy opened to exploitation.

"Finally, they say that whatever substitute is devised for the price-and-profit system, it must be one based upon scientific control, planned on a national scale and operated by technical experts. Human nature must have nothing to do with it; human desires, human behavior must not be allowed to interfere. It is too complex, too delicate, too speedy to be bothered by mere human beings. The laws of physics must be the sole and supreme law of the land. The system of government must be designed by scientists and engineers, and administered by a kind of Technocratic National Committee.

"What they will do about politics, fashion, fun, and other persistent human dispositions and frailties remains to be seen. Probably just ignore them."

All that Mark Sullivan of the New York *Herald Tribune* can see in technocracy is "one of those novel ideas with a mystic sounding name which sweep over the country once in so often."

To the editor of *Barron's Weekly*, Mr. Scott's argument is only "a shade more intelligible than would be a similar amount of space fully occupied by a series of Einsteinian equations."

But a number of the critics of Technocracy admit that it has called attention to an extremely serious situation, and one which requires all our energies to find a cure. Let us take, for instance, the carefully worded statement given to the United Press by such a business authority as James D. Mooney, President of General Motors Export Corporation:

"Technocrats who hold that a breakdown would be inevitable if the 1929-1932 ratio of decline were maintained for another two years may be right.

"Much remains to be done. It is obvious that we are to-day suffering from a one-sided deflation. Salaries, wages and commodity prices have been deflated, but many groups of values remain at inflated levels.

"The price and rate structure are to-day still out of balance. The internal structure urgently requires deflation, a situation that can be met either through inflation, revalorization or by government decrees, the third course seeming the soundest.

"In the field of international politics, closely interwoven with economics, the entire debt and trade situation requires reestimation and clarification.

"If I believed the American ingenuity, honesty and individual courage were not able to cope with these last remaining stages of deflation I should feel, with the gloomy philosophers of Technocracy, that a breakdown was inevitable. But every indication points to the solution of these problems, and every business leader and economist of the country is intent upon their solution.

"It is entirely reasonable that at such a time, doubting and fear-struck people would react to prophecies of doom due to mechanization. Such prophecies have been consistent since 1830. Inevitable dark days have passed, to be succeeded by days in which man's conquest and utilization of the machine led to a busier, brighter, happier world, with more employment for all, more possessions, more basic values.

"The price system, which 'technocracy' holds untenable, is the bedrock of the American economic scheme. It is the key which has unlocked the wealth inherent in machines, has made us masters of machines for more than one hundred years, has made machines give us increasing values and utilities.

"The breakdown of 1929 was not a mechanical breakdown. It was caused by a lack of understanding and respect for economic laws."

And the New York *Journal of Commerce* offers this advice:

"Better credit control and encouragement of more even popular spending habits through tax policies and voluntary avoidance on the part of business management of excessive resort to instalment selling, unbalanced plant expansion, etc., would help. Adoption of more logical foreign policies, involving either consistent isolation or consistent freedom of trade and financial intercourse with foreign countries would also facilitate stabilization.

"Specific remedies of this kind should be evolved and tried before serious consideration of anything more revolutionary."

The Technocrats may be wrong in their figures and may be overstating their case, but the Baltimore *Sun* admits that "the adaptation of our economic machinery to our increasingly efficient industrial machinery on generally beneficial economic terms is so obviously a pressing national concern that the Technocrats have performed no slight service in devising a means of directing animated public attention to it."

We are a long way from the abandonment of a price system and a money economy; however, the Cleveland *Press* concludes: "We are not far from the date when shorter hours throughout industry, the diversion of more of the fruits of the industry to the workers, unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, some kind of economic planning, some kind of social control of the business cycle, are imperative." And to let the St. Louis *Star* have the last word, "it is just as safe for the United States to ignore technological unemployment as it is to fire a boiler without adding water to it."

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TOPICS IN BRIEF

After a debt is contracted it seems to expand.—*Chicago Times.*

France's debt payment was a franc failure.—*Winston-Salem Journal.*

"Market shows steady tone." Yes, but in such a flat key.—*Thomaston Times.*

No theory of government can work very well if the people don't.—*Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger.*

No wonder Germany wants equal armament. It's such a nice alibi for inability to pay.—*Publishers Syndicate.*

The international lesson of the day is that a debt settlement to be enduring must be endurable.—*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.*

Think of having the world's best chiselers and none working on government expenses.—*La Porte (Ind.) Herald-Argus.*

Violent exercise after forty is especially harmful if you do it with a knife and fork.—*Vancouver Sun.*

Oh, well, we can get careless with those Christmas cigars and burn holes in our Christmas ties.—*Atlanta Journal.*

If The Literary Digest's Presidential poll turns out to be inaccurate in 1936, that will be news.—*Chattanooga News.*

Singularly enough, the citizen whose need is greatest for a new deal is usually the one with a full house.—*Weston (Ore.) Leader.*

Deprest merchant out our way says he'd object neither to a sales tax nor to a tax on pterodactyl feathers.—*Arkansas Gazette.*

Mr. Insull says he left Chicago for his health. If only that guy had got sick ten years ago.—*Bellingham (Wash.) Herald.*

When an American Tourist in France Suggests Debt-Reduction

—Thomas in the Detroit "News."

Trouble is, there's more victors than spoils.—*Weston Leader.*

The forgotten woman is the one on the dollar.—*Greenville News.*

Europe also seems to have developed new contract rules.—*Springfield News-Sun.*

There is only one State that kills people with gas without first feeding it to a motor.—*Milwaukee Leader.*

Paavo Nurmi, Finnish runner, has a new-born son whose father now may learn to walk.—*Louisville Times.*

But if reducing armaments would help nations to pay their debts, why can't Germany pay hers?—*Lynchburg News.*

The bonds of matrimony are like that, too. Keeping up the interest is what preserves their value.—*Martin's Ferry Times.*

Setting Junior a good example seldom goes so far as eating spinach.—*Chatham (Ont.) News.*

There's the bridge that spans chasms, and the game of the same name that causes them.—*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.*

Information is wanted as to the whereabouts of those fifty million Frenchmen who can't be wrong.—*Boston Transcript.*

Oh, yes, of course; if you wait long and patiently enough something will turn up, if only your toes.—*Thomaston Times.*

Germany was not responsible for the World War, says the Kaiser. Maybe they just wanted to see Paris.—*Chattanooga News.*

The real hunger marchers will reach Washington when the Democratic Administration takes over the job.—*Anacortes (Wash.) Mercury.*

Now scientists prove that fruits radiate electricity. We've often felt the current of juice from a grapefruit.—*Vallejo (Cal.) Chronicle.*

The rabbit would be a ferocious animal if the furriers called him the same names in life that they apply to him in death.—*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.*

Now the ladies are trying to select the most popular tree. If the tribute paid to it is an indication, we'd say the palm.—*Calgary Herald.*

Remembering the good luck of the King of Siam, we hope George Bernard Shaw's trip over here will cure that old I trouble.—*Peru (Ind.) Tribune.*

Something else this country needs is some sort of something that will hold the gent supposed to be holding the holding company.—*Macon Telegraph.*

We read that an Englishman has invented an automobile which can turn corners at seventy miles an hour. We wish he'd give prosperity a lift.—*Atlanta Journal.*

Folks who call a spade a spade will have to find a new name for hunger marchers who eat at public expense and ride to Washington in automobiles.—*Greenville Piedmont.*

Our prisons and penitentiaries are full of educated men, says an authority. Well, it's refreshing to know there's at least a place for an educated man.—*Chattanooga News.*

Please give this little sentence we've built from the ten words picked by Wilfred J. Funk as the most beautiful in the English language, a great big hand: In the hush of a mist-laden yet luminous dawn, one hears the murmuring lullaby of golden chimes in tranquil melody.—*Weston Leader.*

Pinching times have been a boon to at least one industry. The snuff manufacturers are paying extra dividends.—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

Republicans are beginning to take Pinchot's advice to reorganize. Alice Longworth was Dolly Gann's dinner guest.—*Tampa Tribune.*

Now and again we rather wish General Sherman could get back long enough for us to find out just what he'd call this brand of peace.—*Nashville Banner.*

What! No Nobel peace prize this year? What about the Kansas bridge club that ruled against husbands and wives playing as partners?—*Sacramento Bee.*

Representative Blanton demands that "Anarchists and cranks" be kept out of the House chamber. But who can override the will of the electorate?—*Washington Post.*

A San Diego tire factory is to be converted into a brewery. But that won't be much of a change. It will still manufacture material for blowouts.—*Dunbar's Weekly (Phœnix).*

It appears, from current correspondence between London and Washington, that Jamestown is likely to retain its title as the first permanent English settlement.—*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.*

One great trouble with this country is the fact that too many of us think that a man who has made a million dollars is an authority on every subject under the sun.—*Atlanta Journal.*

The Literary Digest's Presidential poll, which turned out to be about 99 and 44-100 per cent. pure, was based largely upon straw ballots cast before any of the principal campaign speeches were made. And you can learn about the efficacy of political speeches from this.—*Thomaston Times.*

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FOREIGN COMMENT

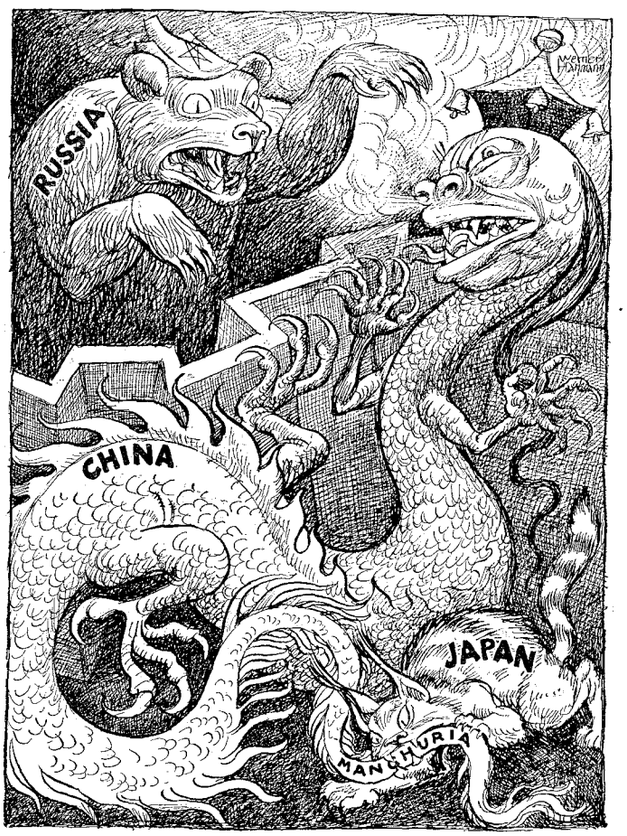
Why China and Russia Infuriate Japan

THE NEWS CAME AS A THUNDERBOLT to Tokyo. With all its destiny at stake in presenting its Manchurian case before the League of Nations, Japan discovered that Soviet Russia and China had quietly resumed diplomatic relations through an exchange of letters between representatives of the Chinese Government and of the Russian Government at Geneva.

The Japanese feel, according to some Tokyo dispatches, that they were "double-crossed" by the Soviet-Russian Government.

For the impression in Japan was that Japan and Russia were on the point of getting together—now Japan sees China using Soviet Russia against Japanese policy in Manchuria, and that makes the Japanese angry at the Russians and contemptuous of the Chinese.

Japan's policy, it is predicted, will become much less friendly toward the Soviet Union and this, some American Tokyo press correspondents predict, means possible serious consequences for the future.



The Three-Cornered Oriental Conflict

Japan attacks the Manchurian tail of the Chinese dragon while Russia looks on in anger and alarm.

—"Kladderadatsch" (Berlin).

ONE point emphasized by an American authority on Japanese affairs, Wilfrid Fleisher, is that the new turn in diplomatic relations between China and Soviet Russia inspired the Japanese Government to cable its chief representative at Geneva to maintain Japan's objection to participation by the Soviet Union and the United States in the projected conciliation commission on Manchuria.

In a press cable to the New York *Herald Tribune*, Mr. Fleisher quotes the "spokesman" of the Japan Foreign Office as saying that the new alinement of China and Russia is of the greatest importance to Japan and overshadows the Manchurian problem.

"Uniting the two disruptive forces in the Far East—Russian Communism and Chinese chaos"—the "spokesman" said, is "a menace not only to the peace of the Orient but to that of the entire world." This Tokyo correspondent informs us further:

"The Soviet Government, which up to the present had maintained an entirely neutral attitude toward the Chinese-Japanese conflict, 'now has become thoroughly involved by siding with China,' it was said. This 'unmasking' of the Soviet attitude, it was stated in official quarters, would leave Japan free to adopt a more 'definite' policy toward Russia 'without scruples.'

"Japanese officials consider that there is no longer any possibility that the Soviet Government will recognize Manchukuo, as China would never countenance such a step.

"A non-aggression pact between Japan and the Soviet Union, which Moscow has been seeking for months, is now 'out of the question,' officials here stated.

"This was to have been, from the Japanese point of view, a trading point in return for Soviet recognition of Manchukuo.

"Great resentment is profest to be felt here over the secretive methods said to have been employed by the Chinese and Russians, who are declared to have been negotiating for four months without the knowledge of the outside world.

"It is contended that China must have been very eager to enter into an agreement with the Soviet if she neglected the precaution of obtaining assurance from Moscow against the carrying on of Communist propaganda in China.

"This is regarded here as 'very rash' on the part of China, and as 'certain to lead to the bolshevization of China, in the absence of a strong central government able to suppress the Red Menace.'

"Most of the bitterness here is directed against the Soviet Government, with which Japan has been flirting for months, rather than against China.

"The action of the Chinese in seeking the friendship of Russia is regarded by Japan as a natural outcome of the failure of the League of Nations to come to China's assistance in the Manchurian conflict."

BUT altho Japan seems furious over the Russo-Chinese rapprochement, the editorials cabled to THE LITERARY DIGEST from the Russian press indicate notable calm in the situation.

As for the Chinese press, a certain amount of quiet cynicism may be discovered in editorials cabled to THE LITERARY DIGEST, as for instance, when the *Shun Pao*, a Kuomintang organ of Shanghai, says, in effect, that "the pardon came too late." That is, it's too late now to save Manchuria from the grasp of Japan.

If diplomatic relations between Russia and China had been resumed before September 18, 1931—when the far-reaching Mukden Japanese incident took place—then, according to this newspaper—

"It is possible that the status quo position in north Manchuria and along the Chinese Eastern Railway might have been preserved. At least the crisis might not have been so aggravating had normal Chino-Soviet relations existed. However, the resumption is unlikely to lead to an immediate solution."

Another Kuomintang newspaper, of conservative tendency, *Sin Wan Pao*, also reveals the Chinese feeling that renewal of friendly relations between Russia and China is not going to help China very much in its conflict with Japan over Manchuria. This newspaper holds that:

"The Soviets, engrossed in their Five-year Plan, are unlikely to render any material help toward solution of the Manchurian controversy.

"Moreover, the Soviets have definitely declined to serve on the proposed League conciliation committee. Russia believes that China should negotitate for Russian recognition of Outer

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Mongolia. Restoration of that area to Chinese sovereignty would be likely to defeat a Japanese scheme to set up a Manchurian-Mongolian State."

On the other hand, an official organ of the Kuomintang or National Government party, the Nanking *Central Daily News*, declares that "while there is no occasion for undue optimism, if resumption is properly utilized, it may mark the beginning of a diplomatic triumph for China."

But then comes the independent *Hsin A Jih Pao*, of Mukden, in Manchuria, which issues a note of warning to any Communist propagandists, when it says:

"Resumption will have a steadying effect upon peace in the Far East. However, it does not mean that China will tolerate Communism, nor does it mean that we may rely upon others for solution of the Manchurian problem."

TURNING to cables to THE LITERARY DIGEST from the Japanese press, we find the influential Tokyo *Nichi-Nichi* very conscious of the fear that renewed relations between China and Soviet Russia may mean more Communist invasion from Russia than China is now enduring. At the same time, this newspaper maintains:

"If China expects to gain Russian support against Japan, she will be disappointed, because Russians are not such fools as to support an unreliable China and embark upon a risky course provoking Japan's hostility.

"It is significant that Moscow still wants a Russo-Japanese non-aggression pact.

"The chief danger is a spread of Communism in interior China, which weak Nanking is already unable to suppress."

Another important Tokyo daily, *Chugai Shogyo*, the leading business newspaper of Japan, fears that the spread of Communism in a Sovietized China imperils Japan, where "underground Communism" is already a grave problem. As to the resumption of relations between China and Japan, this journal declares solemnly:

"The real Chinese motive is to restrain Japan in the pending Chino-Japanese issues. China wants to estrange Manchukuo.

"Soviets multiply the chances of Russo-Japanese complications with their Chinese program, which has a chance of success since Russia is vitally interested in North Manchuria, where she might further her interests through cooperation with Nanking.

"But it would be impossible for Japan to remain the onlooker if Manchu-Soviet relations were complicated. It is a question, however, whether Manchu-Soviet complications, which mean Russo-Japanese complications, would ultimately benefit China.

"Japan's diplomacy, as regards Moscow and Nanking, needs most careful consideration, but must result in no deviation from Tokyo's fixt policy with regard to Manchukuo."

MEANWHILE, for a really confident and superior attitude toward the situation, one must turn to *Izvestia*, official organ of the Government at Moscow. It will help China along the road to peace and quietude to be on good terms with Russia, *Izvestia* claims, as it argues:

"Further development of events, deepening of the crisis, and politics of the imperialists, have made it clear to the ruling circles in China that absence of normal relations with the Soviet Union—land of Socialism—didn't promote peace, but to the contrary tended to complicate China's position.

"Resumption of normal relations unquestionably is a positive manifestation, if judged from the standpoint of strengthening peace in the East. Therein lies the importance of resumption of Chino-Soviet relations.

"The powerful chain which shackles the forces of war is now strengthened by another link—establishment of normal relations between the Soviet Union and China.

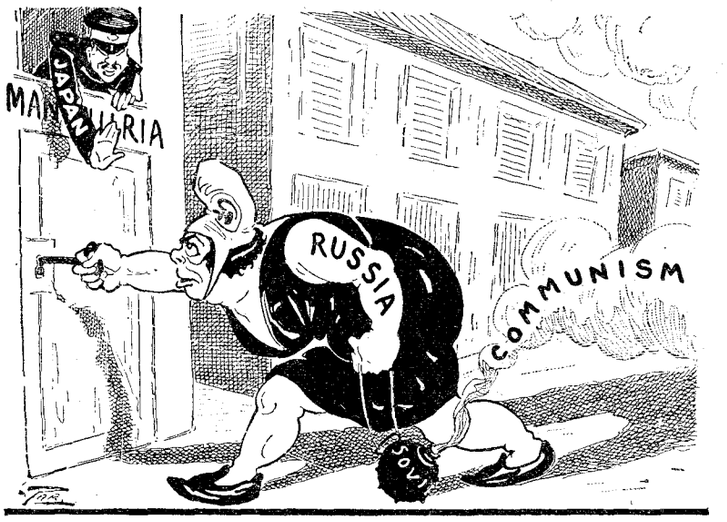
"The resumption will be interpreted throughout the world as another victory of the Soviet foreign policy, since it is a manifestation of the consistency of Soviet diplomacy."

"Americanizing" Germany

SICK AND TIRED OF A LONG SERIES of upsetting and chaotic elections, some German editors urge that the Republic be "Americanized."

The German Government must be made a "Presidential" one, they say. It can not continue as a "ministerial" Government, if by that is meant the dependence of the Cabinet upon a majority in the Reichstag.

What is more, this is said to be the idea of the men now wielding supreme executive power at Berlin. That fact inspires alarming inquiries in some sections of the German press, which dispute hotly regarding the lengths to which the so-called "Americanization" should be allowed to go.



A Japanese Warning to Russia

"Get out of here—this is my house!"
—"Il 420" (Florence).

Such newspapers as the Berlin *Rote Fahne*, organ of the Communist party, and the Berlin *Vorwaerts*, mouthpiece of the Social-Democratic party, suspect monarchist designs in the tendency to vest so much power in the executive.

BUT journals of more conservative affiliations, such as the *Koelnische Zeitung* (People's party), dismiss such a suggestion as far-fetched. This daily goes on to point out advantages of the American scheme of government, saying:

"Over there in the United States they do not bother about coalitions or concentrations and votes of loss of confidence and decrees for dissolution. Over there they just elect and then the thing is decided.

"Hoover is followed by Roosevelt. The old Cabinet is succeeded by a new one. The Republican majority in Congress makes way for a Democratic majority.

"The course is settled for four years to come. Should we wish something of the sort for Germany?

"One who looks at the American mechanism apart from all others would be ready to answer the question in the affirmative. A system like the American could be imitated without difficulty.

"Instead of a comparative vote we would have a plurality vote—a relative or an absolute majority with a second ballot.

"The Cabinet would no longer be responsible to the parliamentary body but to the President of the Republic. A simplified system we in Germany could accordingly set up."

But the question arises, this Cologne daily avers, whether such machinery would work as smoothly in Germany as it works in the United States. For instance, there are disadvantages in the American system, and doubt is exprest whether such disadvantages would be accepted by the Germans as calmly as they are agreed to by the Americans.

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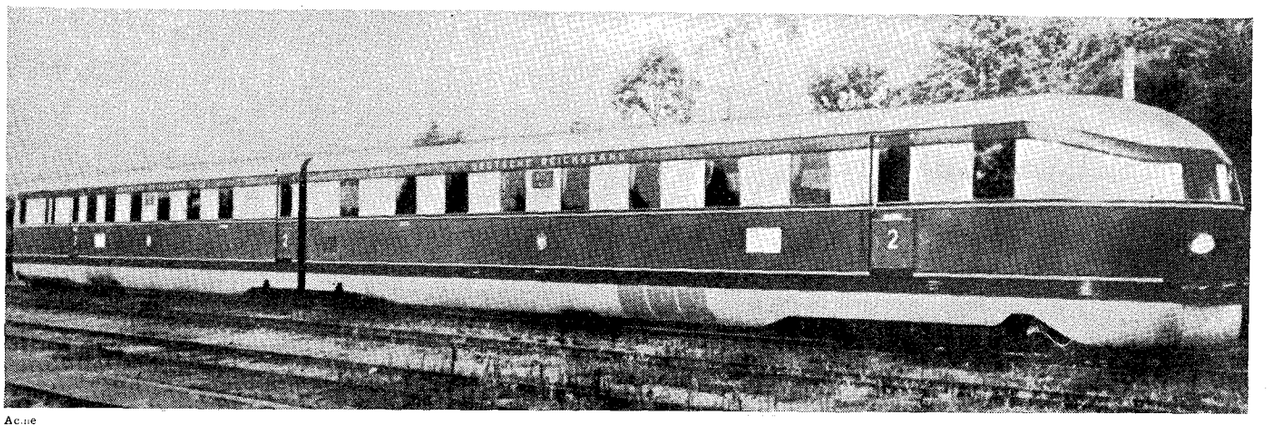

Acme

The Train That Means "Salvation for the Railroads of America as Well as of Europe."

Germany's New Train Marvel

GAPING WITH ASTONISHMENT, Germans along the railway line between Berlin and Hamburg saw a new miracle of speed flash past them on December 19. Brilliantly painted in violet and ivory, it covered the distance of 180 miles in 2 hours and 20 minutes, establishing a world record, and winning for the Germans, we are told, the blue ribbon for railway lines as well as for ocean ways.

But what is more, this stream-line combination Diesel-motor and electric train is said to promise "salvation for the railroads of America as well as of Europe," because it solves the problem of automobile transport competition with rail carriers.

Over the first half of the run the train was clocked at ninety-three miles an hour, Hamburg Associated Press dispatches tell us, and the engineer slowed down to make the planned schedule.

It is pointed out further that the utmost efficiency is embodied in the new train. Not even the door-knobs project from the body, so that the wind resistance may be minimized. A wide strip of metal completely encircles the train at the bottom, extending well below the axles and forming a windshield for the wheels.

THE Hanseatic Flyer, as the train is called by the enthusiastic German press, ran at an average of ninety-one miles an hour, as compared with the seventy-six miles made by the flyer of the English Great Western Railway between London and Swindon, until now the world's fastest train.

It also surpassed the average of fifty miles an hour achieved by the regular express between Berlin and Hamburg, hitherto the fastest German train. In a Berlin copyright cable to the New York *Herald Tribune* we read:

"After making its record run this morning, the train returned from Hamburg in the same time. It therefore cut more than one hour off the time of the regular express between Germany's two largest cities, saving thirty-seven minutes each way.

"Following a series of trial journeys, the train is to be installed on time-table service in the spring.

"A specially invited group, including Dr. Karl Maybach, head of the company that manufactured the engines, made the trip this morning and praised the smoothness of the hermetically sealed train.

"The train, painted in brilliant violet and ivory, has a total length of 137 feet and consists of two cars linked by folding bellows. At each end of the train is a Maybach engine with 410 horse-power.

"To lower the air resistance, the front of the train is sharply rounded and the cars are as low as possible. Instead of a smoke-stack, the train has a narrow, slightly projecting exhaust-pipe, while in place of the buffers common to European trains it carries a narrow straight beam projecting on either side. The lights in the front of the car have been built inward.

"The cars, having accommodations for 100 passengers, are built on the American principle, with seats on each side of the aisle, instead of on the compartment system of European lines.

"The speed-car is said to be a modification of the 'Zeppelin on rails' invented by Franz Krunkenberg, which attained the much greater speed of 143 miles an hour in a trial run between Berlin and Hamburg, on June 21, 1931, covering the distance in a little less than one hour thirty-seven minutes, but, for some unexplained reason, has not proved practical otherwise."

Terrorism's Spread in India

POLITICAL MURDER SEEMS TO FLOURISH in India, say some Indian journalists, despite the rigor with which assassins have been pursued during the past year.

Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal, the so-called "terrorist stronghold," is said to have put fresh vigor into the terrorist hunt. But critics of his administration allege that instead of bringing political murder under control, stringent measures appear only to have intensified and spread the terrorist campaign.

As the British-owned *Statesman* (Calcutta and Delhi), whose editor, Sir Alfred Watson, has been twice miraculously saved from the terrorist bullets, points out, no less than five outrages were recorded in a single day's news. To quote it:

"Saturday's newspapers contained a hideous series of paragraphs. Mr. Charles Luke (a superintendent of a jail) was shot at Rajshahi, and presumably his wife and daughter were lucky to escape.

"An approver (one who turns King's evidence) in the Lahore conspiracy case died of stab wounds inflicted hundreds of miles from Lahore.

"A Brahmin schoolmaster was assaulted by a couple of Dacca's local heroes, and four more of them attacked and robbed a bank's *durwan* (watchman).

"Any one who can read this tale with equanimity is to be congratulated on his eccentricity, but on nothing else whatever."

THE scenes of these outrages were widely separated—from Dacca and Rajshahi, in the northeast, to the Punjab in the northwest.

Naturally there is a sharp divergence between the British and the Indian view concerning measures to stamp out the assassination plague.

While the British are said to believe in waging relentless war against the terrorists, the Indians declare that only the conciliation of their people by the grant of self-government can change present conditions. Typical of the wholly uncompromising frame of mind is a letter sent to the Calcutta *Statesman*, which says:

"Terrorism and all forms of violent political crimes will probably die out the moment there has taken place a real transfer of power to Indian hands. The root cause is the delay in this transfer of power.

"The remedy is to hasten the day when the people of India become the final arbiters of their destiny."

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Wonderland Comes to Life

NOT SINCE ROSTAND PUT HIS ARRAY of barnyard fowl on the stage in "Chantecler" has such a fascinating assemblage of live stock turned theatrical as in Eva Le Gallienne's production of "Alice in Wonderland."

"Children will love it if their imaginations are still unfettered," writes Brooks Atkinson in the New York *Times*. "Their elders will love it with a nostalgic rapture for the days that no longer come."

This judgment of the children is not shared by the austere Percy Hammond of *The Herald Tribune*, who sees a child reading "Alice" forming "the characters in its own fresh and poetic imagination," and then at the play "discovers that they are not real, but merely actors in false faces and funny clothes, as unbelievable as a Salvation Army Santa Claus," with results that "may be artistically unwholesome."

If such a contingency was feared by Miss Le Gallienne she perhaps decided on the wise course of making a "duplication rather than adaptation," in Burns Mantle's phrase (*Daily News*, New York).

The Tenniel figures are followed as faithfully as possible, and the backgrounds are, many of them, in the technique of drawings.

Right Out of Tenniel

Josephine Hutchinson as "Alice" "has the most difficult part of the whole business."

IF critics find little to carp about, they discover much to rouse enthusiasm. John Anderson (New York *Evening Journal*) reaches a high water-mark :

"It is an occasion for salutes and congratulations, because Miss Le Gallienne undertook the risk and the work of a venture which, had it failed, could have brought from an outraged community nothing less than the hoarse cry of the *Queen of Hearts:* 'Off with her head.'

"As it is, Miss Le Gallienne may keep her head, since she knows how to use it, and she may hold it high. This 'Alice' is beautiful nonsense, alive, of course, with the immortal humor of the book, and glowing in the fresh excitement of the theater.

"Possibly the terror which reasonably besets a Lewis Carroll addict in merely thinking about *Alice* on the stage has to do with the way the characters might look and act in the hands of a group of players. Too many times the drama has invaded the privacy of our pet volumes to make grotesque corpses of them in the theater.

"Look what it did to *Mr. Pickwick*, for one, when he was mussed by the harsh behavior of the playmakers.

"But fortunately for us all and for our illusions, the Tenniel drawings provide an unmistakable chart, so that the actors can never look like actors at all, so swamped are they in the hilarious cardboards and papier maché and putty chunks of *Alice's* incredible menagerie.

"From the *Dodo* to the *oysters* who went for that fatal stroll with the *Walrus* and the *Carpenter* (a delicious interlude of marionettes, by the way), the characters on the stage are simply the drawings of Tenniel rounded out and set into motion. The fact that they do not have to act with their faces, or look well, or something, releases the players for all the frolicsome make-believe of the gayest foolishness in the language, and they rise to it marvelously.

"Their cardboard disguises, so amazingly manufactured, take on a curious life of their own, and I would have sworn that Robert Ross made the *Frog Footman's* plaster visage take on an additional snoot, and that the *Dormouse* of Burgess Meredith did something off the record with its eyebrows.

"Charles Ellis as the *Duchess* was everything you could expect of that peppery noblewoman, and Joseph Schildkraut, in the fantastic make-up of the *Queen of Hearts*, seemed all that even the *Ace of Hearts* could expect. The *Red Chess Queen*, who, you remember, had to run fast in order to stay in the same place, achieved what must be a sort of inevitable vivacity in the performance of Leona Roberts, and Miss Le Gallienne, as the swooning and flighty *White Queen*, whose memory ran backward, seemed exactly right."

MR. ANDERSON realizes that Josephine Hutchinson as *Alice* "has the most difficult part of the whole business," since—

"She can have small reliance on make-up, is open to the sharpest comparison to the illustrations, and undertakes a rôle in which, probably, no one on earth could look as astonished as she ought to. There are no muscles for that much astonishment on the human face. But Miss Hutchinson plays it sweetly, gently, and with much grace."

THE support given to Mr. Anderson by John Mason Brown (New York *Evening Post*) seems to dispose of the last cavil:

"During her six feverishly active years as the Little Corporal of the Civic Repertory Theater's destinies, Miss Le Gallienne has not attempted a more difficult technical job than this twin dramatization of 'Alice' and 'Through the Looking Glass' presents. Nor has she in the realms of comedy yet achieved a more delightfully entertaining production.

"Her 'Alice' has all the festive qualities about it that should belong to the merriest of Christmas pantomimes in England.

"It is madly undramatic. It has its flat moments; its interludes when Carroll's texts, that were written to be read, refuse to be shown off to best advantage as theatrical dialog.

"No world could be harder to realize in terms of suitable backgrounds and costumes than the topsy-turvy world of 'Alice,' where things happen that are 'curiouser and curiouser,' and where the only logic that holds sway is nonsense. Yet in some astonishing fashion, this Wonderland is realized down on

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Fourteenth Street—rude creatures, fiendishly difficult costumes, ever-changing backgrounds and all."

In Ruth Seinfel's interview with Miss Hutchinson in the New York *Evening Post* is a summary of *Alice's* "hard work"—

"Perhaps the hardest work, physically, that the young actress has ever had to do in the theater. She is on the stage continuously throughout the performance, and what with meeting white rabbits and caterpillars and dodos and gryphons and other strange animals all evening, and having to run with the *Red Queen* as fast as she can to stay in the same place, and fetching the ladder to help the *White Knight* back on his horse every time he falls off, which is satisfyingly often, she is fairly tired out after the performance."

A "Dreadful Prospect" for Humor

MAY COMIC PAPERS SEE THE DAY when there is nothing to be comic about?

This is one prospect visioned by the new editor of *Punch* (London), tho he adds that at present it seems far off.

He is Mr. E. V. Knox, who under the signature "Evoe" has been writing for *Punch* since 1906. He takes the chair just vacated by Sir Owen Seaman, "O. S.," as his contributions were always signed.

Tho he doesn't definitely foretell a humorless future, he notes how "the differences of outlook which separate the humor of one age and one race from another" brush many jokes into the discard. Also he notes that policemen, yokels, plumbers, are less and less the occasion for mirth.

In an interview in *The Sunday Observer* (London), he says:

"It is a rather dreadful prospect, but the fact is that the people comic artists used to make fun of—policemen, yokels, housemaids, Irishmen, Scotsmen, plumbers, and their mates—are all much wiser and much more sophisticated than they used to be. They know too much about the ways of the world, and how other people live to make the mistakes we used to think funny.

"There are, however, still the politicians, and the Bright Young Thing, who does not seem to have changed much—tho she would probably hate to think so—since Leech's or Du Maurier's day. When these disappear—tho I have hopes of eternal life for the politician in the pages of the comic journals—there will be no more humorous papers as we know them to-day.

"I believe, however, that some of the old jokes are still the best, and that jokes likewise are often better for being old, provided, of course, that they are carefully handled. We may know what is coming, but we get our amusement from speculating as to how the dear old thing is going to come out in this particular version. That, for instance, is the secret of the great Scotch joke. It is as old as the mountains, but in a new dress it seems fresher than ever."

HIS criticism of amateur would-be contributors may be of interest to the legion of would-bes in our own land:

"There are several very bright young men writing for us, of whom I have great hopes. They are mostly from Oxford or Cambridge. What is wrong with the others who swamp us with manuscripts is that they are far too content to give us imitations of the work of other members of our staff, instead of sitting down and trying to be funny after their own fashion.

"They seem frightened that if they are not imitating 'A. P. H.,' or 'E. V. L.,' or 'A. A.,' their contributions will not be accepted, whereas what we are always looking out for is humor that is entirely fresh, and not a mere echo of what others are usually able to do ever so much better. The problem of the amateur contributor to *Punch*—and by amateur I mean the writer who does not make writing his job—is an awkward one. I suppose we have more amateur contributors, or would-be contributors rather, than any other humorous paper in the world.

"They write to us from all parts of the world, from the Far East to the Far West. Civil servants, Army and Navy people, tea-planters, rubber-planters—they all seem to share the notion that tho writing may not be quite a man's job, writing for *Punch* is different. The trouble with this type of contributor is that tho he has the material and the experience necessary to produce first-rate stuff, he usually can't write it, whereas the other would-be contributors at home can write, but have nothing to say."

He Wants Another D'Artagnan

OH, FOR A SWASHBUCKLING HERO, a chip on his shoulder and a sword in his hand, to come stalking through the pages of modern fiction.

Flutter them now, and what does one see? Milksops, not a man among them.

The plea and criticism comes from Dr. John H. Willey, president of the Lord's Day Alliance. He turns up his nose at the weaklings created by contemporary authors.

"How we do long for the breath of pines and the clash of steel!" Dr. Willey said to the Alliance at its forty-fourth anniversary. "How we range the library shelves with our Diogenes lantern looking for a man, a hero who slams around him, and carries a chip on his shoulder, and periodically and hilariously raises Cain!"

"The Three Musketeers," "Ivanhoe," or even "Hopalong Cassidy" would give Dr. Willey grateful relief, as he is quoted in the New York *Times*. "And when we turn in despair to the theater, instead of Joseph Jefferson," he says, "they give us Rudy Vallée, the crooner."

Among the creators he singles out are Louis Bromfield, John Erskine, and Sinclair Lewis. Mr. Bromfield's hero in "A Modern Hero" is a "blackguard Don Juan and brutal Casanova." Mr. Erskine's *Galahad* is a "milksop," and in "Elmer Gantry," Sinclair Lewis created a "cash register and a rubber-stamp."

The whole business of heroes, holds Dr. Willey, is merely another evidence of the "crumbling of the foundations" which the Alliance is fighting to avoid.

But some of the ruffling blades of romance whom Dr. Willey recalls, *The Times* reminds him, drank even harder than they rode and fought. "The trail of the Three Musketeers was marked by hillocks of empty wine bottles. Some of *Athos's* performances in that line were prodigious. The pages of 'Ivanhoe' are redolent with ale and mead."

A reformer is out of place in the field of literary criticism, ventures the Baltimore *Sun*, which wonders whether Dr. Willey has heard of Sabatini, James Boyd, or Edgar Wallace. And perhaps he has never seen the rough and ready nut-crackers of the movies, sound and silent.

"If the doctor does not know more about what the world needs in the matter of reform than in the matter of literature and drama, one suspects," says *The Sun*, "that he must be a rather uncertain guide at best."

The Cover

MR. KOENIGER belongs to the Woodstock, New York, group of artists, and has been painting landscapes of that section since 1912.

Three times we have reproduced his work on our covers—November 20, 1926; November 17, 1928, and January 10, 1931.

He was born in Germany, in 1881.

Quoting from an earlier appreciation: "He is in the tradition of Twachtman, who is said to have shown the world that snow is about the most beautiful thing in nature."

Mr. Koeniger's pictures when exhibited at the Springfield (Utah) High School, called forth this tribute from a pupil on his painting, "Through the Birches"

"This beautiful country scene appears to have been freed from every impurity by a recent rain. The clouds light as fairies who have paused for a second on a clear blue pool. The trees look to me as those trees must have looked to Joyce Kilmer when he wrote his poem 'Trees.' The winding road looks as tho, could it tell its story, it would be one of trial and endurance at first; but now it is resting as its troubles are left behind. It is like a person who, after gaining fame by living a life of service, is now waiting for some change in his existence."

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Fun at a Wagner Concert

WAGNER IS SO MUCH taken for granted today, that we have ceased to see the ludicrous in his music.

But London, it seems, can still find delight in ribaldry over his scores.

Over there it is Sir Henry Wood who holds the baton, and once, not long since, the clever chap named Terry, who furnishes humor for the *Evening Standard* (London), wandered into a "Prom" concert at the Queen's Hall. That is another word for the "Pops" at Boston, or the Stadium concerts in New York.

And this is how it left Terry:

—Mendoza in the "Evening Standard."

"'*Tiddly-um-tum, tiddly-um! Tra-la-la, tarra-lalla-la!*' I can't get the blessed tune out of my head. It's been dinning in my ears ever since I heard it at the 'Proms.'

"Fellow called *Tristan*, telling a girl named *Isolde* how things stood. '*I-dilly-I-doh, zip bang!*' A most exciting thing. Full of fire and go.

"I thought we should have had to send out for some more trumpets before we'd finished. '*Twiddle-iddle-ego. Slosh! Boom! Hi!*' Talk about love-making—it was more like the last round for the Navy Heavy-weight Championship.

"But, mercy! Pardon! I exaggerate. Indeed, I lie. It was nothing like that at all. If I am a little light-headed, make some allowance for a low-brow who lit on the 'Proms,' on a Wagner night, and is in consequence not quite himself."

BUT Terry couldn't have been left as badly off in his head as he reports, for he continues to give a lucid account, from his standpoint, of the goings on. He had arrived at the conclusion of the first number:

"When I entered the Queen's Hall, paying my two shillings descending the stairs, and opening the swing doors of the promenade floor, I thought I had come to exactly the right spot. It looked as if I were in for a real gay evening.

"The orchestra had that moment finished playing something, and the audience, who were as the sands of the sea for number, were cheering just like we do at Chelsea when the home side has scored an equalizing goal. A man turned to me as I pushed my way in and shouted in my ear:

"'Absolutely perfect!'

"'*Top hole!*' I bawled.

"'THE TRAGIC DESPAIR OF THE FINALE,' he yelled, 'WASN'T THAT GREAT?'

"Gradually the uproar died down, and a lady and gentleman in evening dress came on to sing (the program said) a Love Duet from 'Lohengrin.' I always like these sentimental numbers. I was young myself once, and I never hear a nice lad singing catchy nonsense to a pretty girl about spooning under the moon, and eyes of blue faithful and true, without feeling better for it. It's a reminder that Love is still what makes the World Go Round.

"So I settled down to enjoy it. Sir Henry Wood lifted his baton, and the first note came just as I was striking a match to light my pipe."

Sir Henry Wood Hushes a Musician

—Mendoza in the "Evening Standard".

But Terry didn't get his pipe lit, for the scratch disturbed the solemn silence and—

"Everybody swung round and glared at me and said 'Sh!' and Sir Henry Wood stopt the turn and scowled over his shoulder at me. The singers frowned at me, the orchestra gazed at me as if I were the measles, and the gallery hissed me. I can take a hint as soon as anybody, and I gleaned from this general hostility that silence during the playing was fanatically insisted upon as from the word GO."

THEN "two people in evening dress sang a love duet," and Terry tells us:

"The words were in German, so I can't say anything about them, but the music had no tune to it, the time kept changing, and often the singers were singing independently of each other, while the orchestra played something that had nothing to do with either of them.

"Also, the singers, who were supposed to be in love, never took the faintest notice of each other all through the piece. I like to see the young man sing the last verse of a love duet holding the girl in his arms, with her looking smiling up into his eyes, and both joining in on the top note while the conductor 'holds it' for them. But these two absolutely ignored one another. They sang straight at the audience all the time. It was just as if they had had a quarrel in the dressing-room before coming on.

"Standing perfectly still through all this, I found rather trying. But nobody else seemed to mind, so I knew I must be a low-brow. I felt as a hungry pig might do who had strayed into Hatton Garden and found nothing to eat but pearls.

"A young man and his girl near me, who appeared to have just dropt in from hiking, stood with bent heads and closed eyes, like 'Figure 1' and 'Figure 2' in the text-books.

"Right next to me a person with a thin, yellow beard, wearing a blue shirt open at the neck, had his eyes fixt on my tie all the while. He made me feel dreadfully uneasy, because at first I thought I must have spilt some soup on it; but it was only musical ecstasy.

"Nearly every one wore a 'Gone away' look. I'm sure I could have picked all my neighbors' pockets without anybody noticing it.

"When the Love Duet was finished there was another terrific outburst of enthusiasm. Chelsea was evidently one up now. The man with the yellow beard shouted:

"'What priceless *arpeggio!*'

"'The very thing that struck me!' I roared.

"But I wasn't wasting much time in conversation. My pipe was still unlit and the close season for match striking was at hand again."

WHAT followed, according to Terry, was the point where *Tristan* has it out with *Isolde:*

"All I can say is, these German lovers are interminable gossips.

"There were at least four occasions when I thought they were surely about to dry up. The drummers put their sticks down; one by one the trombones laid off; the 'cellos gave a parting groan; and the violins, left alone, faded slowly away to nearly nothing, while Sir Henry passed his left hand over them like nurse smoothing the bedclothes and saying, 'Now go to sleep like a good boy.'"

Isolde, as the cut above shows, "had the last word."

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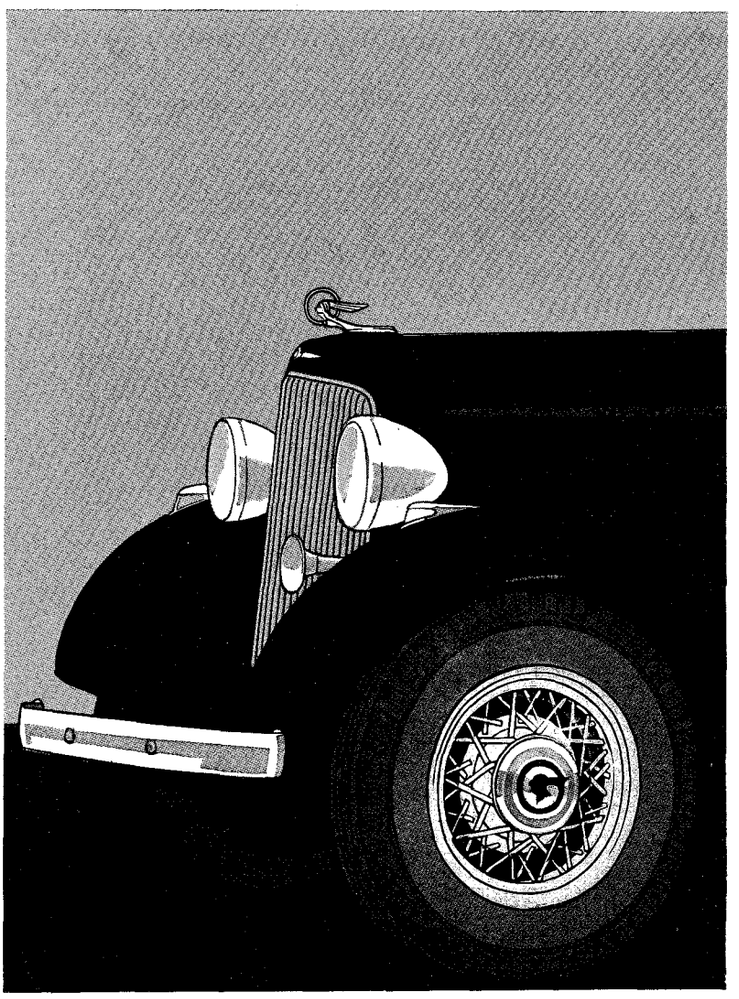

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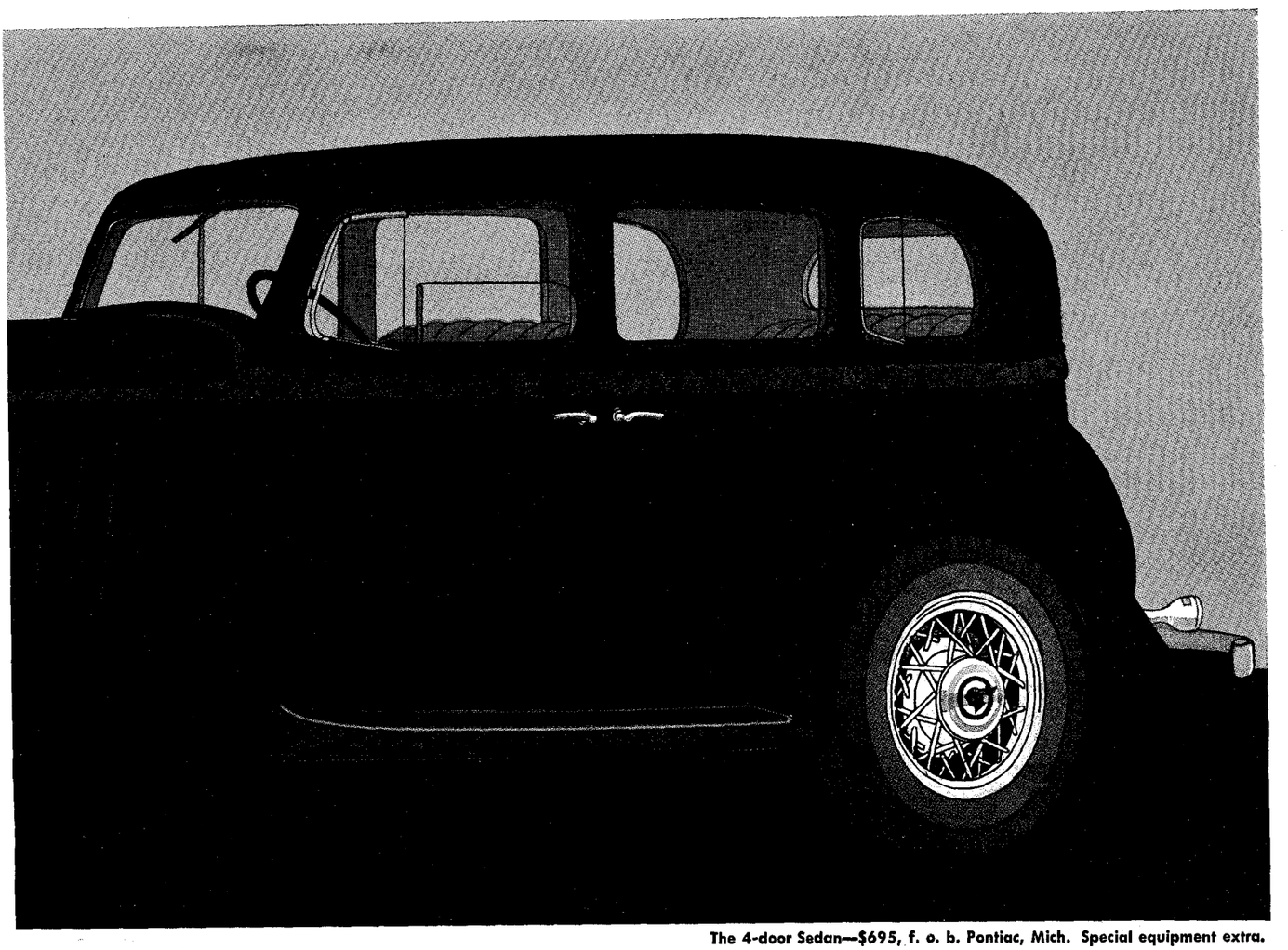

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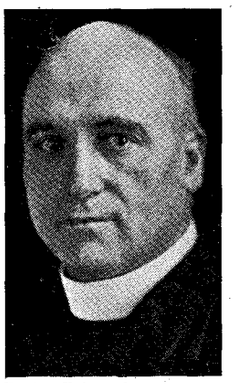
A Warning to Capitalists

"REDS TAKE WASHINGTON." "Soviet Dictator Occupies the White House." "Congress Abolished." "Government to Be by Decree." "All Capitalists Proclaimed Enemies of the Soviet State."

Not yet—but it may be. What happened in Russia can happen here. The French Revolution can be repeated.

Communist talk? No, these are the sober words of Catholic clergy and laymen. Bolshevism, they predict, may overtake the United States unless capitalism learns to cooperate with other forces working for a new order. They take it for granted that some sort of social revolution is in the making. "The only question," says the Rev. James M. Gillis, editor of *The Catholic World*, "is whether it shall be a pacific one or a bloody one."

Father Gillis was speaking at a regional conference at Fordham University under the leadership of the National Catholic Alumni Federation. It was one of four such conferences, the others being held at Washington, San Francisco, and Notre Dame. The conferences mark the beginning of a crusade for social justice in industry based on the tenets advanced in the papal encyclical of Leo XIII in 1891 and of Pope Pius XI last year.



Keystone-Underwood

Dr. John A. Ryan.

Christianity was not founded for the purpose of supporting the capitalistic system, says Father Gillis, as he is quoted in *The Catholic News* (New York). And the fact that the Pope says no Catholic can be a Socialist does not mean, in the sense in which he used the term, that Catholics "are bound hand and foot, body and soul, to the present capitalistic system."

In fact, Father Gillis denounces capital's treatment of labor as "worse than that accorded an animal," and he rebukes preachers for minimizing Christ's strictures of the rich and making them "nugatory and meaningless."

THROUGHOUT the entire discussion, we read, ran the thought that the capitalistic system under which this country operates has thoroughly failed, and that it is nearing its end. In its place will come some form of modified Socialism, some system opposed to the theory which gives man the privilege of success and unlimited opportunity without moral restraint.

Keystone-Underwood

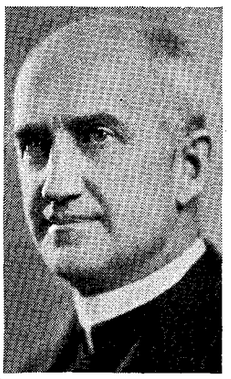
Thomas F. Woodlock.

The present policy, says the Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, editor of *America*, "actually has produced nothing but unlimited competition and unlimited opportunity for avarice and greed."

Capitalism has been committing suicide, says Dr. John A. Ryan, professor of Sociology at Catholic University, because it has insisted on increased production of goods without much concern about how they are to be sold. He challenges its attempts to attribute the world depression to the inevitable course of a business cycle, contending the phrase "business cycle" had been coined as a substitute for and excuse for thought.

The same idea runs through the mind of Thomas F. Woodlock, former Interstate Commerce Commissioner and an editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, who says the depression marks the breakdown of a political, economic, and social order. Mr. Woodlock does not believe, however, that capitalism would necessarily have to be scrapped, but insists it will have to accept a new place, that it will have to cooperate with other forces in the nation. He says that mass production and mass consumption must be better synchronized, and he holds this can be accomplished by sharing the profits of production.

If industrial magnates will not grant social justice, urges Joseph A. Porcelli of Fordham University, "let us pass laws to force them to do so." The conference adopted a resolution offered by Supreme Court Justice Edward A. Dore providing for a national conference of Catholic economists to frame a definite platform to be placed before the nation.



Wide World Studio

Rev. J. M. Gillis.

NOR is this rebellious criticism of the present social order confined to the Catholics. Other denominations have warned of serious disturbance unless something is done to equalize opportunity and resources. Earlier, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, meeting in Cincinnati, adopted a report challenging the system which, "as late as June, 1932, according to impartial statistical surveys, permitted interest and dividend payment in industry to remain 20 per cent. higher than they were in 1925, while factory pay-rolls have diminished to less than 50 per cent. of what they were at that time." The conference endorsed "such changes as would bring about curbing of the greed which the present profit system makes inevitable." It recommended "not only such palliatives as compulsory unemployment insurance, but also the further-reaching demands of the more adequate distribution of the profits of industry." Then this to burn the capitalistic conscience:

Marceau

Rev. Wilfrid Parsons.

"Capitalism, with a few conspicuous exceptions, has constantly fought labor's right to organize and have a decent voice in the administration of the basic pursuit of a livelihood.

"It has stedfastly sought to speak of the return of prosperity on the basis of a return to private profits, rather than a concern with how the great masses of men are going to be able to achieve even a minimum wage."

SPEAKING of the Catholic conference, *The Catholic News* says it "has been the means of bringing anew to public attention the fact that forty years ago Pope Leo XIII's encyclical prescribed a social justice rule that is a remedy for the present economic disease, and that other Catholic leaders, including the present Pope, have been constantly warning against evils bound to follow from unlimited opportunities for avarice and greed."

In his demand of May, 1931, for justice for the wage-earner, which was almost universally commended, Pope Pius broadcast to the whole world these warning words:

"Free and often unbridled competition has been succeeded by the exaggerated concentration in the hands of a few of the whole economic power, not only of single nations but of the entire world, and this concentration and this power degenerate into tyrannical despotism.

"It is therefore absolutely necessary to reconstruct the whole economic system by bringing it back to the requirements of social justice so as to insure a more equitable distribution of the united proceeds of capital and labor."

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The Root Cause of Our Present Distress

GREED—THE FEDERAL COUNCIL of Churches puts its finger on man's besetting sin.

The desire for money, power, prestige, translate it into what you will, is the major cause of man's present economic ills and spiritual wo. It is selfishness that has brought Europe to the edge of the gutter and rendered millions in America helpless in the midst of plenty. It is selfishness that has brought the whole world to the verge of a spiritual debacle.

To some extent, at least, the Council speaks in the name of the ministers and members of twenty-six Protestant bodies comprising nearly 22,000,000 enrolled communicants.

In its message to its membership and to the people at large, drawn up at the quadrennial meeting in Indianapolis, the Federal Council brings the Church face to face with "certain bleak facts":

"Economic exploitation, wherein the acquisitive instinct has not alone outstript but submerged the sense of social responsibility, is bearing and eating its own bitter fruit to-day. It is cold comfort to realize that the exploiter is so largely suffering under the same weight of distress as that which has crusht the victim of his rapacity.

"Corporate greed has brought its commensurate consequences of corporate wo. Many, alas, have gone down under the blasting storm of disaster, and many more are being drawn into its deadly vortex.

"Lust of possession, prestige, and power have also burned their devastating way into the very citadels of our civilization, and have not been afraid to invade our sanctuaries. Appetite, custom, and greed are demanding a speedy restoration of habit-forming alcohol to legalized security and entrenched arrogance, with ill-gotten revenue offered as a salve for the subsidence of our national conscience.

"A specter also stalks our feast of bitter bread to-day. It is the feverish desire of multitudes to restore by the devices of magic the very conditions which have brought us low. Brazen and seductive voices are not lacking in the high places of the land as they call us back to barren and blighting prosperity and to the worship of things as they were."

Courtesy of Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America

Protestantism's President

Dr. Albert W. Beaven, new head of the Federal Council of Churches.

THE Federal Council is for a new deal which will abolish poverty and all hardship and unhappiness attributable to our present economic order and spiritual lack. It sets up a number of inclusive "social ideals" for man's achievement with the aid of God. Many of them, including those having reference to industry and labor, Prohibition, international relations, war, etc., are more or less restatements, and were not debated.

But a recommendation for birth control brought in by the committee on social ideals started a heated argument, which was not ended until the recommendation was put aside.

The recommendation set forth that "the interests of morality and sound scientific knowledge require the repeal of the Federal and State laws which prohibit the communication of information about birth control by physicians and other qualified persons."

The religious world was thrown into ferment when the Federal Council issued a "guarded" approval of artificial birth control in 1931, as recorded in these pages April 11 of that year.

This time, however, opposition within the Council was too strong, and the Council postponed further discussion by referring the subject to the executive committee, to report to the next Council meeting, in 1934. The Council does say, however, that "the problems related to maternal health as affected by childbearing, and the whole subject of the spacing of children and limitation of the size of families, which has unfortunately become involved in acrimonious controversy, should be reexamined dispassionately, from the point of view of morality and hygiene, with due regard to the best means of maintaining desirable standards of living and fully discharging the fundamental obligations of parents to each other and to their children."

On the subject of marriage, the Council's message to the churches says "divorce and separation may be preferable to the enforced continuance of a relation which has no true basis in mutual respect and affection as far as the two individuals are concerned, but the effect upon children, the family, and society must never be ignored or minimized. Moreover, it is evidence of failure, always to be deplored and to be avoided, if by any means success can be achieved even over what may appear insurmountable obstacles."

The Council reaffirms its support of the Eighteenth Amendment, and protests against nullification by failure to appropriate for its enforcement. It opposes any submission of repeal of Prohibition, and rededicates its churches to "unceasing battle with the liquor traffic."

ENTERING the debatable field of foreign relations, the Council asserts its belief that "a revision downward of the debts to the United States is essential," but that such a settlement "should be accompanied by general measures for the reduction of armaments." American adherence to the World Court is urged; reduction of armaments by one-third is approved, and the Council sets its seal on the Lytton Report, which it believes points the way toward the restoration of amicable relations between China and Japan. "Strict control" of "the private traffic in arms" is urged, the Council holding that "sound public policy requires peace-loving nations to forbid their nationals to engage in international traffic in military implements."

Regarding the right to refuse to bear arms, the Council declares that "God alone is Lord of the conscience." Citizenship should not be conditioned upon the willingness to bear arms, contrary to conscience. "The State should not create the dilemma of loyalty to country or to Christ. Should such a dilemma arise, we follow Christ."

THE Council is no less bold in the ideals it sets up in the field of industry and labor. It would remove from hire all children under sixteen. It would have social planning and control of the monetary systems and the economic processes for the common good, safeguard workers against occupational diseases and dangers, insure them against sickness, accident, unemployment, and want in old age. It would have shorter working hours and a fairer distribution of wealth. It demands that cooperation shall supplant competition as the fundamental method. Economic justice for the farmer would be provided through legislation, financing of agriculture, and a rearrangement of the costs of transportation and the price of farm products as compared with the cost of machinery and other commodities he must buy.

Gambling and speculation are condemned in a special paragraph as an "endeavor to acquire wealth, with no personal contribution to society." Gambling, says the Council, "permeates all society, breeds criminals, is responsible for broken fortunes, broken homes, defalcations, and suicides. This mania for gambling has come to a climax in a debauch of stock speculation."

The supreme social need is spiritual awakening, says the report, and it concludes:

"In our extremity, arising out of harrowing social conditions throughout the world, we therefore turn anew to Christ; for the

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faith of great endeavor, for an overwhelmlng disclosure of God in the life of humanity, for the dedication of innumerable individuals to the creation of a more Christian social order, and for the assurance that what needs to be done, with God's help, can be done."

The Council elected new officers. Dr. Albert W. Beaven, head of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and former president of the Northern Baptist Convention, succeeds Bishop Francis J. McConnell, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as president, and Dr. Lewis Seymour Mudge, stated clerk and former Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, was elected vice-president, a new office created under a plan of reorganization.

"Parson Tom"

The Rev. Thos. E. Stevenson, who has charge of the religious activities at Boulder City. Seven denominations cooperate in the enterprise.

"A resounding program," remarks the St. Louis *Star and Times* of the Council's "ideals." "Much of it can be realized shortly if the churches, with their widespread membership, will fight for enactment of these beliefs into law."

But the Schenectady *Union Star* questions whether the members of the Federal Council of Churches have any qualification to pass upon the questions on which they speak so decisively. "What worldly knowledge does their religious belief impart to them that makes them presume to advise society on the specific steps it must take and the laws it ought to adopt to govern human relations?" asks *The Union Star:*

"It is not that any of the ideas it proposes are intrinsically wrong. They may be wrong or right.

"Who is competent to say? The objection is that it is outside the sphere of religionists to attempt to regulate society by law. Individually and collectively, the Federal Council of Churches membership are undoubtedly excellent and earnest people, well-meaning and honest in their views; but we also know how easy it is for organizations of excellent people to lend their names to various cults and movements; how easy it is to get a set of resolutions adopted; how easy it is for extremists for this or that view to gain the ear of an assemblage and secure their indorsement.

"At a time when the world's greatest need is for spiritual strength to perceive the right and do it, the Federal Council of Churches has a greater opportunity for service than in trying to formulate specific laws, a job which others are better fitted to do. Its rightful job, namely, strengthening the spiritual life of people, is the peculiar job of the churches; and nobody else can do it."

Church Ahead of Satan in Boulder City

"WELL, IF THAT AIN'T THE DEVIL!" Three thousand men working for the Government, pay day regular as clockwork, recreation a necessity—but the Church had reached there ahead of him.

The prospector was disgusted. He had expected to pan a lot of gold in Boulder City by opening a gambling hall for the "boys."

But there was no room for him. The Church had staked a claim to the whole city.

Boulder City is a model community. Here are housed the men employed by six construction companies to build Hoover Dam in the Colorado River. No saloons are permitted within its borders, writes Ernest M. Halliday in *The Federal Council Bulletin*. No gambling dens exist to fleece the workers.

Six Companies, Inc., maintain a recreation hall in charge of Frank Moran, an ex-boxer, a man who understands men and whom men understand, says Mr. Halliday. A company store sells necessaries to those who occupy their own homes. An up-to-the-minute hospital, with a staff of experts, is ready for emergency cases or illness. But, under such conditions, accidents are rare in Boulder City, and sickness is infrequent.

In striking contrast is Las Vegas, Nevada, some twenty miles away, says Mr. Halliday. Las Vegas, he tells us, is notorious for its crowded gambling "clubs" in every down-town block, a segregated district and a horde of panhandlers with their insatiable thirst for "a cup of coffee."

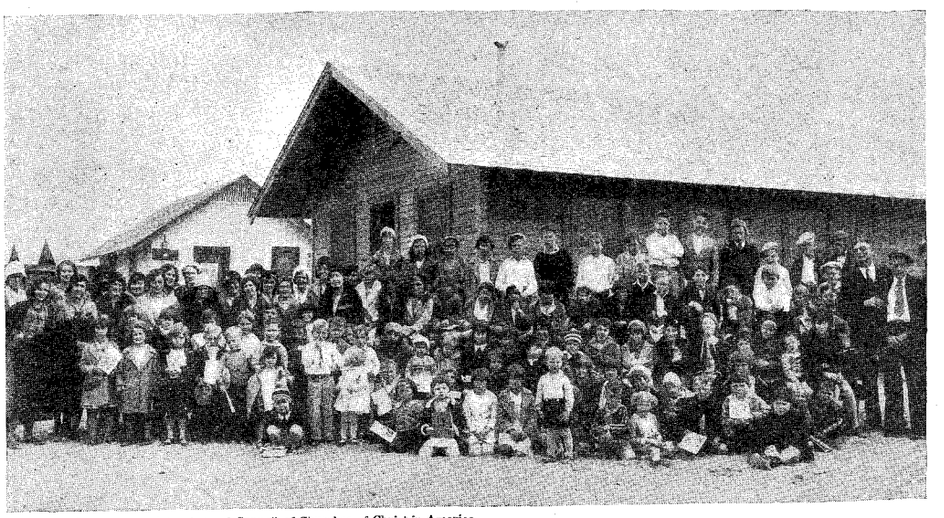
But vice doesn't pay in Boulder City. Frank Moran and "Parson Tom" see to that.

In the old days, says Mr. Halliday, the denominations would have competed for the advantage in such a city. But, thanks to the foresight of the Federal Council of Churches and of the Home Missions Council, a pastor was engaged jointly, and the program of the churches was arranged cooperatively instead of separately. "Parson Tom" Stevenson was selected for the task, and, writes Mr. Halliday:

"He is a good fit. Tall, well-built, experienced, with a warm handclasp, a ready smile, and plenty of energy, he makes his way quickly with the men. He began work October 1, 1931, and thus far has held his services in one of the mess halls.

"He now has a Sunday-school with over one hundred in attendance in temporary day-school cottages. A better place is to be provided soon, through the joint contributions of the seven communions which are underwriting the local budget.

"Even after the dam shall have been completed and the workers dispersed, it is expected that Boulder City will remain as headquarters for the administration of the dam and an important resort center, with a permanent federated Protestant Church."



Illustrations by courtesy of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America

Why Vice Doesn't Pay in Boulder City—The Sunday-school

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Invest in Yourself

"Listen to me, Bill. No money investment you can make is so important to you as an investment in yourself."

YOU can make a wise investment in 1933—whether or not you have money to invest. It is one which should bring rich returns, added health and comfort and, more than likely, extra dollars.

Invest in yourself.

A complete physical examination—a thorough health audit—costs but little in time and money. An investment in yourself should be the foremost investment you make in 1933.

If you are mentally and physically fit, you will be ready to take advantage of your opportunities in 1933 and the years to follow. If you are sick or run-down, you will find it very difficult to think clearly and to decide wisely. If your doctor should find something wrong which can be corrected, you can profit by the timely warning.

If, however, he reports you to be in good physical condition, you will be glad to know it. It will be a tonic to your spirits and give you added confidence in yourself. You will tackle your problems with keener interest and greater capacity.

After you have done everything you can do to become fit—keep fit so that your dividends from health will be uninterrupted. Send for the Metropolitan booklet, "Health, Happiness and Long Life" which tells simply and clearly the fundamental rules of intelligent living habits.

It discusses such subjects as Sleep, Fresh Air, Rest, Sunlight, Exercise, Posture, Cleanliness, Water, Food, Comfortable Clothing, Work, Play and Good Mental Habits. Your copy of Booklet 133-L will be mailed free on request.

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FREDERICK H. ECKER, PRESIDENT — ONE MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

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SCIENCE AND INVENTION

Not Perpetual Motion

BUT IT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE IT.

With two coils of glass tubing, two glass bulbs and a piece of cheese-cloth, George H. Gibson has put together a demonstration power plant.

With no apparent source of energy it drove a small turbine wheel at the recent National Exposition of Power and Mechanical Engineering at the Grand Central Palace, New York City. Says the New York *Times:*

"This apparatus, which requires no fuel, delights engineers by the simplicity of its thermodynamics. They gather around it and agree with the designer that it is the next thing to perpetual motion. In fact, A. E. Kittredge, who is charged with explaining it to the public, says it takes an engineer to understand why it is not the same thing as perpetual motion."

The device as described seems to be simplicity itself:

"Everything is of glass, and in plain sight. From the top of a bulb half filled with water a tube rises to a second bulb in which there is a turbine wheel about three inches in diameter. The entering tube is drawn to a nozzle set to blow against the buckets on the rim of the wheel. The bottom of the turbine bulb is connected back to the water-bulb through a glass coil wrapt in cheese-cloth and through a similar coil which is not wrapt. It is a closed circulating system."

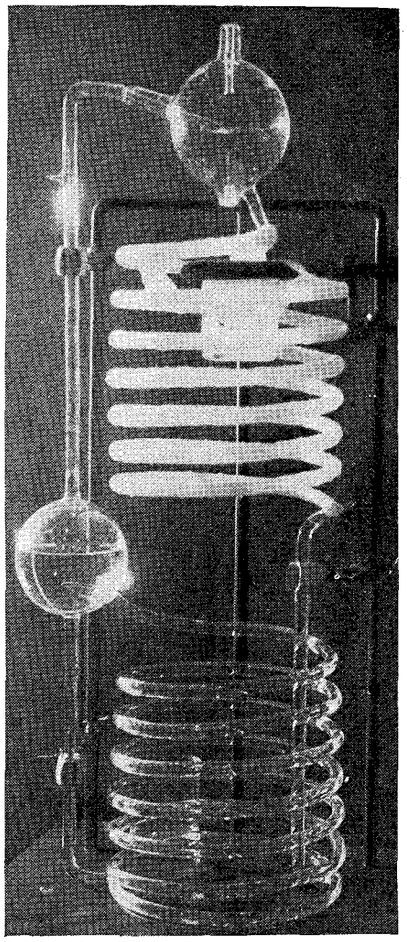
THE combination of vapor and water circulates as long as the cheese-cloth of the wrapt coil is kept moist by letting one end hang like a lamp-wick in a glass of water. The water soaking along the cloth does the rest.

This is the way it works:

"Evaporation from the moist outside surface of the wrapt coil cools it, so that water vapor expanding through the system from the water-bulb at room temperature is steadily condensed inside the wrapt coil. On the way from the water-bulb to the wrapt coil the vapor works the turbine wheel. Through the wrapt coil, as water once more, it drops into the lower end of the unwrapt coil. Through this it rises into the water-bulb again, as it absorbs heat from the atmosphere and approaches room temperature. From the water-bulb the cycle repeats.

"Mr. Gibson, who designed the device, says the temperature difference between the water-bulb and the wrapt coil is about 3 degrees Fahrenheit; that the spouting velocity of the vapor striking the rim of the turbine wheel is 600 feet per second, and that the rating of the plant is one sixty-thousandth horse-power.

"Altho everything is in sight through transparent glass, the vapor is invisible, and nothing can be seen except that the machine works."



Courtesy of George H. Gibson Company

It's Next Thing to It

Engineers gather round and agree that "it is the next thing to perpetual motion."

Commercially, the device has its limitations, for we are told:

"Mr. Gibson explained that he was not selling stock in his machine, however, because it is shown only as a feature of the exhibit of the Cochrane Corporation of Philadelphia, which is one of the large manufacturers of steam power-plant equipment. He said it was intended to illustrate the power sources of the atmosphere analagous to the sea thermal plant installed at Santiago, Cuba, at a cost of several million dollars.

"The inventor declared his atmospheric vapor power plant had practical limitations in the size and cost of condensers that it would be necessary to build to keep the temperature of the boiler water up to the surrounding atmosphere, and to keep the vapor cooled below, if power in quantity were desired."

Hot Ice

UNDER HIGH PRESSURES almost all substances acquire new and strange properties.

Water solidifies when it is nearly "boiling hot"—that is, at a temperature that would cause it to boil at ordinary pressures.

Some of the odd qualities of things under pressures of fifteen tons to the square inch, as investigated at Harvard and described in *Current Science* (Columbus, Ohio), are as follows:

"The strangest thing about 'hot ice' is that it would really blister your hand because of its heat. There's no 'catch' in this statement, as there might be concerning 'dry ice,' which is not water ice at all, but frozen carbon dioxid, and would injure tissues of your fingers because of its extreme cold. Ice at + 180 degrees Fahrenheit would be at the temperature of scalding—almost boiling—water, and would really burn an inquisitive finger.

"'Hot ice' is merely one of the surprizing results obtained by Prof. P. W. Bridgman of Harvard University, who has invented a laboratory machine by which extremely high pressures can be applied to various gases, liquids, and solids.

"The apparatus used is really rather complicated, but works on a simple principle. A hole is bored into a large, thick block of steel. The substance to be comprest—water, for example—is put into the hole. A plug of special design that is practically non-leaking is inserted in the hole, then pressure is applied to the plug.

"Almost any amount of pressure could be applied, using the 'mechanical advantages' of levers and gears in modern machinery. The upper limit in Professor Bridgman's apparatus, however, depends upon the final leaking of the plug or the bursting of the steel block.

"In his daily experiments, pressures up to 200,000 pounds per square inch are obtained easily with the apparatus. When necessary, pressures up to 300,000 pounds have been measured with fair accuracy. In a few instances a tremendous force of 600,000 pounds per square inch has been locked up within the steel block, which in these cases was placed behind thick boiler-plate for the protection of the operators. The pressure within the largest guns upon a battle-ship is less than one-tenth of that amount at the moment of firing!"

PROFESSOR BRIDGMAN tells strange stories about the actions of some very familiar things in his apparatus. Water starts out by freezing at somewhat lower temperatures as the pressure rises, until 30,000 pounds is reached, when the congealing point is about 4 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. Then the freezing point rapidly rises, and at 300,000 pounds water remains solid up to 180 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the "hot ice"; but no lump of it has ever been taken out of the steel block, for that would release the pressure and leave only hot water in its place. To quote further:

"Other substances behave most strangely indeed when confined in the block and prest down with 200,000 or 300,000 pounds of force. Gases become liquids; liquids become sirupy or solid; solids are actually comprest. Hydrogen gas actually enters the walls of the steel block, as if seeking to burrow between molecules and escape. Mercury penetrates the steel. Phosphorus turns black and conducts electricity. Rubber becomes rock-like.

"Glass actually shrinks within itself; then shows a surprizing after-effect. After the pressure has been released, and the glass set out upon its shelf, it may remain apparently unchanged for many weeks. Then, an explosion shatters it into fine powder."

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Selenium Steel

A BRAND-NEW ELEMENT has come to play a part in the metallurgy of iron.

Just when we have about concluded that research has completely exhausted the list of elements that can be dissolved in iron or mixed with it, a new one is discovered.

The outstanding effect of selenium in stainless steel is to render it free-machining. It is hard to believe that a new element could at this late date threaten the monopoly so long held by sulfur—but selenium is claimed to be the equal of sulfur as a free-cutting agent, and at the same time avoids some of the objections to it. Says a press bulletin issued by the Carpenter Steel Company, of Reading, Pennsylvania:

"The discovery of selenium steel is of particular interest at a time when so much research work is being done on television and the 'electric-eye.' The selenium cell is inseparably associated with the early history of both of these new electrical robots.

"As a chemical element selenium has been known since 1817. In 1873 W. Smith discovered that in its crystalline form it was sensitive to light. By passing an electric current through a selenium coil, and directing a ray of light against the coil, the current can be made to vary simply by interrupting the beam of light. This principle is at the basis of television and other photoelectric apparatus. Quite recently a light-sensitive vacuum-tube has been developed which effectively replaces the selenium coil in such appliances.

"Selenium has also been used to a limited extent in the glass industry as a decolorizer, and in the manufacture of red—or ruby—glass, it is sometimes used as a coloring material. It makes an excellent flame-proofing material for electric cables—to prevent the insulation from igniting, and it also finds some application in the rubber industry.

"The silence of technical literature on the subject seems to indicate that the use of selenium as a free machining agent in iron or steel is absolutely new.

"Approximately 350,000 pounds of selenium were produced in the United States in 1927. Crystalline selenium occurs in steel-gray, hexagonal crystals and it is frequently sold in the form of fine powder or in cast sticks.

"Early experimental work at the Carpenter Steel Company was done with elemental selenium, but the losses in adding to the molten steel bath led to the adoption of an alloy with iron which is heavier than pure selenium and more readily assimilated by the steel bath."

THE new free-cutting steel, we are told, is melted in high-frequency induction furnaces. The process goes on as usual until a few minutes before the molten metal is ready to pour, when a carefully weighed proportion of ferro-selenium is added on the surface and is swiftly carried down by the violent motion of the bath. Casting, hammering, rolling, and annealing proceed just the same as with any other stainless steel. The finished product can be cut in automatic screw machines at 60 to 70 per cent. of the speed of Bessemer screw stock. It can be drilled, tapped, threaded and otherwise machined with ordinary machine-shop tools and practise. The writer goes on:

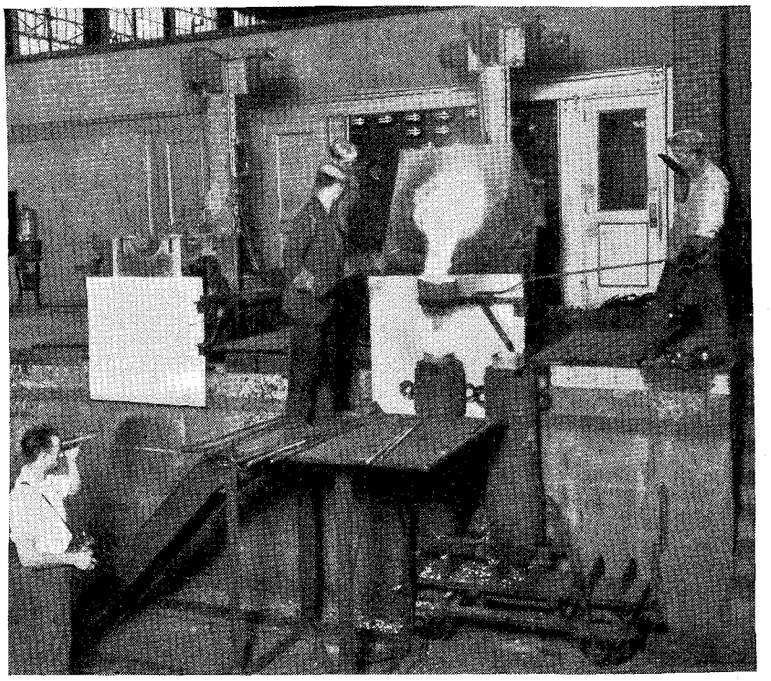
"Selenium has several distinct advantages over sulfur as a free-cutting agent. Sulfur, when added to a steel bath, combines with some metal to form a sulfid insoluble in the steel, which occurs in the cast ingot as small non-metallic particles. During the hot working of the steel, these are drawn out into long threads that interrupt the continuity of the metal.

"The greater transverse toughness of stainless steel containing selenium influences in several ways the fabrication and use of the product. The selenium steel is easier to roll and forge than the sulfur types—being less subject to splitting, cracking, or opening up at the ends. The selenium steel can be upset with greater safety and less trouble from splitting. High-sulfur stainless-steels have fallen short of the requirements for pistol barrels because of this tendency to split. In any application where the parts are subject to internal bursting strain or transverse shock, the selenium steels will prove much safer than those containing high sulfur."

To Curb Transatlantic Flyers

THE DEATH-KNELL OF AVIATION'S most profitless and hazardous undertaking may have been sounded by the decision of the Aeronautics Branch of the U. S. Department of Commerce to bring transoceanic flying under official scrutiny in the future.

By no one is this amendment to the air commerce regulations more warmly applauded than those within the aviation industry. It comes after a summer of unending efforts to fly the Atlantic and in sufficient time to discourage plans for an even larger number of attempts when the weather again becomes suitable for them.



Courtesy of the Carpenter Steel Company

Pouring the Selenium Stainless Steel

Writes Frank J. Carmody in a bulletin of the Ullman Feature Service (Washington):

"At the same time that it disbars the unqualified from risking their lives and damaging aviation's reputation for sanity and safety, the new provision of the regulations leaves the ocean open as the aircraft industry's most spectacular proving ground. If the prospective ocean-flyer can meet the requirements which are set as an official minimum, the Government will wish him a bon voyage and help to assure it.

"It is interesting to many observers that the first requisite to the consent of the Aeronautics Branch for such flights is that the pilot be qualified to fly by instruments alone. The individual who can not do so might as well start his journey through an arch inscribed 'All ye who enter here, leave hope behind.' Apart from fog, clouds, and other obscuring weather conditions, transatlantic airmen are certain to meet a long stretch of blind flying. This must prevail until planes are made fast enough to cross the water area from dawn to dusk; which will be rather a long time considering the heavy fuel load with which they start.

"The Department also insists that the ocean-defying airman be a qualified navigator, that he carry duplicates of important directional and navigation instruments, that an adequate amount of fuel be carried, and that the plane shall conform to the airworthiness requirements of the Government.

"The wholesale result is expected to manifest itself early in the spring in the form of comparative quiet at Roosevelt field. When there is a recurrence of the old transatlantic fever which has raged for five years, the chances will be much stronger that it will be less severe on aviation's reputation."

Another Ullman news bulletin has this interesting item:

"So accustomed is the average person to thinking of the size of the aeronautical industry in terms of the number of pilots, that it probably will come as a surprize to know that pilots constitute but 1 per cent. of the number employed. Government figures show 600 pilots on the pay-rolls of scheduled air-transport lines, while the industry's aggregate employment roster is 60,000."

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The Needs of the Medical Profession

FEWER SPECIALISTS; MORE general practitioners. Less red tape.

Also a few other things, all specified in a book entitled "Let's Operate," by Dr. Roy H. McKay (New York, 1932).

This doctor is severe with his profession; yet he affirms that he is proud of it. He castigates it for its good. Here is the greater part of his final chapter, where he briefly summarizes his opinions:

"We need in the medical profession more general practitioners, fewer specialists, and better doctors generally.

"The medical schools ought to teach less of the specialties and more of the curative practises, because curative practises comprise from 70 to 80 per cent. of a family's needs. The open hospitals can give a great deal of help by refusing their facilities to men unqualified to treat certain diseases. The Government can help by passing laws prohibiting the practise of surgery to those unqualified.

"However, it would be advisable to permit the physician to operate when it is a question of saving a life with no surgeon available. If compelled to operate, the physician should be compelled to report the circumstances to his State medical board —and justify them."

Physicians and patients must work hand in hand, says Dr. McKay:

"But even more is needed a change in attitude by the profession toward the public and by the public toward the profession. Doctor and layman each knows too little of the other; together we must work out the application of our medical discoveries.

"We are not all alike, any more than you of the laity all wear the same size collar. But the pleas of numbers should not protect us. As a group, however large, we ought to be more capable than we are.

"If the laity will curb its senseless desire to run to a specialist—or what purports to be a specialist—with its stomach-aches and its backaches, and take its ills to its family physician, that will help; if it will inquire a little more carefully into what is going on in its hospitals, that will help; if it will scan a surgeon's records a trifle more carefully, that will help; if it will pay less attention to quacks and patent medicines, that will help."

THEN the family doctor comes in for a word of criticism:

"If doctors will read their medical journals and their new books more than they do, that will help. Too often after getting his license to practise, the doctor tosses his text-books into the nearest corner, buys no new books, reads little, and tries to practise medicine on what he remembers—or thinks he remembers—of his classroom teachings. Eighty per cent. of his patients will recover if he does nothing but put them in bed for a few days of rest, and gives a proper diet; to justify his charges he leaves a few pills, or a prescription to be filled at the corner drug store.

"That is about the extent of his knowledge. Hence when confronted by a serious disturbance he is likely not to recognize it until too late, if he recognizes it at all. Therefore, every doctor ought to spend several hours each day keeping himself informed as to the advances being made within his own profession.

"We ought to pay more attention to what is being said in the public prints.

"It is the public which is being exploited. Every doctor who has watched through understanding eyes has seen the results of the terrible mistakes of the operating rooms.

"The time for professional shoulder-shrugging has passed, if it was ever here. It is very much the business of the public. We've got to be more competent than we are. We've got to correct our own evils or the public will correct them for us.

"Altho you may not have suspected it, I am proud of my profession. No profession has done so much to alleviate the pain of man's lot in a world of struggle. For those who forget this heritage by drifting along in the careless contentment of mediocrity, and for those who try to hide among the mirrors of trickery, there is not much to do except to make apologies.

"But there is a great deal the laity and the profession, working together, can do.

"The findings and the advances within the medical profession are not the birthright of the physician—they belong to the patient.

"The doctor is only the guardian. The barrier between the medical profession and the public ought to be broken down. Instead of there being so much ethics between doctor and doctor, there ought to be less, and more between doctor and patient. The medical profession, through its organizations, should take the initiative."

Giving a Cold Before You Have It

COLDS ARE CONTAGIOUS before their symptoms appear.

In other words, one may catch a cold from a person who appears to be in perfect health.

These conclusions may be drawn from experiments recently made, which are reported in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (Chicago). We read:

"A group of investigators at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine is engaged in an extended study of the common cold. Cultures are taken each week from the throats of a number of chimpanzees. Before cultures are taken from the animals, the hands of the observer are scrubbed and a mask is placed over the face.

"Recently during this performance on an intractable chimpanzee, the mask of the observer was not in place, and to open the ape's mouth the observer had to come in close contact with the animal. At this time the observer, the attendant, and all the apes were in good health, and had been free from any signs of infection of the upper respiratory tract.

"On the day after the examination, however, the observer complained of sneezing, lacrimation, and fulness in the nose and throat, and on the following day was suffering from a typical severe common cold, which lasted for two weeks.

"Two days after the examination of the animals' throats the intractable chimpanzee and another docile ape presented nasal discharge and obstruction and elevation in temperature, and passed through the typical stages of a common cold. No other primary infections developed, and there were no secondary cases in this group of about eleven apes.

"It seems probable that the intractable ape received the infection through close contact with the unmasked observer, who may have unconsciously put her hands to her face. In the case of the docile ape, the observer's face was masked. The ordinary gauze mask, as has been shown in previous reports, is not a complete protection against the common cold. This incident, having happened under controlled conditions, is of interest also in view of the opinion of some observers that a common cold may be contagious before the actual onset of symptoms."

The Mysterious Sense of Smell

ODORS are largely neglected in the medical practise of to-day. Few doctors use the sense of smell in diagnosis, owing, perhaps, to the functional inadequacy of the contemporary nose.

The modern world can no longer smell, but as recently as the last century there were physicians who could often tell the nature of a disease by the odor of the patient—an odor so delicate as to be imperceptible by those who neglected this source of information.

Writes Prof. C. G. von Maasen in the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* (Berlin):

"It is related of one of the most illustrious German physicians that, whenever he entered the room of a sick person, he sniffed the air, and that he detected the nature of the illness infallibly by this means.

"The fineness of the sense of smell has decayed with the progress of our mechanical civilization, especially among the residents of cities. Perhaps the growth of the tobacco habit has contributed to this effect.

"Yet we must admit, too, that the sense of smell in its perfection is granted to few. Not many physicians are as highly endowed in this respect as are some breeds of dogs. These can tell by the bodily odor of their masters how sick those masters are.

"It seems well established that a dog can smell the fact that his master is going to die. This is why some dogs so mysteriously abandon their masters.

"There is the case of a lady who owned a pet monkey. It abandoned her, and before many days she had the measles. When she recovered, the monkey returned.

"Some men have the scent of a hound. They can tell merely by smelling an overcoat in the hall who has come for a visit."

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CURRENT POETRY

UNSOLICITED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS DEPARTMENT CAN NOT BE RETURNED.
UNPUBLISHED POETRY UNAVAILABLE

ON another page we give some views of the new editor of *Punch* (London) regarding humor. Here is an adieu to the outgoing editor in *The Morning Post* (London):

TO SIR OWEN SEAMAN

BY ANITA DUDLEY

(Who to-day leaves the Editorial Chair of *Punch* after twenty-six years' service.)

Sir Owen, though you would not print my verses,
And never once immortalised my name,
And naturally no tender poet nurses
First passion's unreciprocated flame,
To-day I kiss each would-be warm effusion—
Dust, date and all—a whole pathetic bunch,
Bound (monumental of youth's lost illusion)
To cold rejection slips from Mr. Punch.

Hell knows no fury—no, nor all creation—
To equal that of any woman scorned,
And yet for all that firm elimination
Of duds that, but for you, might have adorned
Not only tomes well-bound to last for ever
In every home that stands on British sod,
But all those dentists' numbers that seem never
To change their dates—I thank both you and God.

I thank you, too, for war's sole benediction—
For hearty laughs that helped one woman more
Than any printed page of fact or fiction—
God thanks you for the gallant arms you bore,
And all the work that younger men and stronger
Might well have done instead, that you to-day
Might else have kept all England laughing longer . . .
Still, laughter-cleansed, she speeds you on your way.

Well done, Sir Owen Seaman—free-man—*he*-man—
Reverberating voices cry "Well done!"
Nor could this Empire find a worthier key-man
To lock Gloom's gates than you, her wittiest son.
We'll all stop work to-day and lift our glasses
At dinner—yea, and cocktail time and lunch—
To toast—Don't weep, you sentimental asses,
"Sir Owen simply *must* still write for *Punch*"!

CHRISTMAS has passed, but this from *The Forum* (New York) may just as well be read as an after-Christmas poem:

JOSEPH TO MARY

SARA HENDERSON HAY

Mary, beloved, if I wounded you
With clumsy silence, or with tardy speech,
It was because my heart was slow to reach
Beyond the limits of its mortal view!
Not that I doubted you or loved you less,
But it was hard to face the winking town,
And a man's pride is difficult to down,
Whatever faith he may in truth profess!

How many nights I watched you as you lay
With this the Holy Child upon your breast—
What anguish shook my heart from day to day!
Oh little Mary, have you never guessed
That I, who would have died to spare you harm,
So feared to clasp you with an earthly arm?

MARY TO JOSEPH

This fear has sat within me, chilled and numbing—
This dread has been upon me, from the start,
Since first I told you of the Angel's coming,
And of the Child that lay beneath my heart.

It was no easy thing to understand,
And not by word or deed have you reproved me—
But Joseph—Joseph—when you took my hand,
Did you believe me, even as you loved me?

RECONCILED to life and its inevitable end is the theme here. With a yearning backward glance. In *The Empire Review* (London):

I MUST GO

BY A. R. UBSDELL

I must go back again for it is calling,
That so still voice which has not got a name;
Once there was spring, but now the leaves are falling,
But we knew Summer ere the Winter came.

The wind that whispered softly through the willows
Is silent now beside the moving stream,
The hills, with all their purples and their yellows,
Are fading with the sunset to a dream.

I loved the roads which led to the horizon,
The flower-gay hedges and the twilit woods,
The moon, and all the million stars that blazon
A summer night, in their vast solitudes.

And there was love, and love was in my keeping;
And there was danger with its haunting call;
And there was joy, in waking and in sleeping;
And laughter, which was greatest of them all.

I must go back, there must be no regretting,
Gladly to reap where gladly I have sown;
For I so loved the World there's no forgetting;
Yet go I must . . . . and I must go alone.

IN THE Halifax *Daily Star* you find a realist with a vengeance, finding fault with poor old Petrarch:

A PROTEST PETRARCHAN

BY PHILIP HOOPER MOORE

I read the dreamy bard and feel a dud;
To all his fine nuances I am blind.
He sings in allegories so designed,
I suffer suffocation in the flood
Of imagery which bids his genius bud.
When he is stuck he calls the wind the "wind";—
His ladies all but dazzle my poor mind;
Though goddesses were modelled first in mud.

Nice women seem to me sweet, earthy things.
Their limbs are legs, not columns of a shrine.
Their orbs are wise, not stars nor limpid pools.
Their lips are live, not gems the poet sings.
Exotic? Well, you've seen them drink and dine
And paid the bill; and yet the dreamer drools!

ONE of those poems that might give a fillip to the "back-to-the-land" movement. In *The Atlantic Monthly:*

VERMONT FARM

BY ROBERT W. NEW

And all the love that there ever was
Between Granville Hill and the Valley of Flood
Is burned out now and gone and dead.
And the valley road is lost in weeds
And the cellar holes are caving in.

The same old brook runs across this road
Though its gully is choked with logs;
Occasional young stock nibble the grass
On Granville Hill that looks across
The ruined vale to the wooded peaks.
And so the slope has a cozy air,
Inviting to lie on in spite of the weeds
And dream of New England of former days.

Nobody drives on the narrow road,
Nothing alive but occasional flies
Mars the quiet of this old place.
It is desolate, ghastly, forbidding, forlorn,
And yet it is dear as it always was;
And private and intimate; precious as well.

The sacred land! The beloved hills!
The soil to return to—be buried in.

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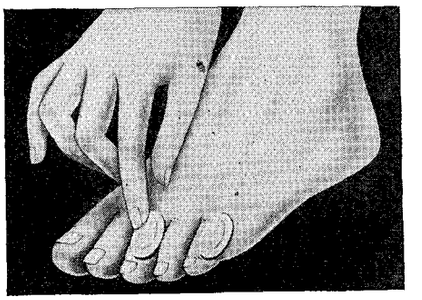

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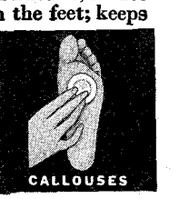

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INVESTMENTS AND FINANCE

Our Mysterious Economic Vulnerability

WHY is the United States hit harder by the world-wide depression than any other country?

Here is a nation not only absolutely richer, but economically more self-contained than England or France or Germany.

And here is a nation, therefore, which was generally thought to be better equipped than other countries to weather any period of world-wide depression. As the New York *Journal of Commerce* reminds us, "prior to 1929, our possession of extensive domestic markets supported by the buying demands of millions of well-paid workers was the envy of Europeans who came in shoals to discover the sources of our prosperity, and departed certain that their quest had been successful."

Of course, we all know now that nothing is left of the myth of our economic invulnerability, but *The Journal of Commerce* thinks it is not so well understood that, as a matter of fact, "the extent of the business recession has been relatively greater in the United States than in any one of the three leading countries in Europe."

IT seems that an important German statistical organization, the Reichs-Kredit-Gesellschaft, has been collecting comparative figures, and reports that by the spring of 1932 our general production index had fallen more rapidly from the 1929 peak than that of any of the seven European countries under comparison.

Then in this country, too, *The Annalist* has been making a study of production statistics revealing, as *The Journal of Commerce* notes, "the unusual precipitancy of the general decline in this country as compared with leading European countries." Moreover, continues this daily,

> Contrary to assertions made for political effect, the indices show that the depression manifested itself in the United States in a sudden production downturn as promptly as in Germany, and in advance of recessions which subsequently developed in England and in France.
>
> Some allowance should, no doubt, be made for a wide margin of unavoidable error in measuring the extent of production declines here and abroad, but the cumulative evidence of our extreme sensibility to the general world depression can not be gainsaid when the evidence is so overwhelmingly one-sided.

Why? Well, *The Journal of Commerce* simply can not tell us, merely observing:

> No satisfactory explanation of the reasons for the relatively greater severity of the business reaction in the United States has been suggested, altho we may assume that, having reached higher productive levels than others, we were in a position to fall faster and farther.

At any rate, our vulnerability proves that even our abundant resources and our relatively limited dependence upon foreign trade afford no special guaranties of sustained domestic demand and steady business activity.

As a matter of fact, the purchasing power of a large section of our farm population is affected by conditions in world markets, whether we export relatively much or little. The disproportionately heavy drop in the purchasing power of the rural districts which has been a source of worry for a good many years has undoubtedly accentuated the severity of our industrial collapse. We have learned that, no matter how well paid, the industrial population of the country can not absorb the output of our farms and factories.

A better distribution of income within the country will have to be effected, and foreign outlets for surplus products will have to be regained and held, to enable us to moderate the violence of the fluctuations in business activity.

Cheap Millions for Uncle Sam

HUGE cash reserves lie idle in the country's banks. And that is why our Government can borrow all the money it wants at interest rates so low that they almost reach the vanishing-point.

The December Treasury borrowings surprized Washington officials because of the keenness of the bidding and the scramble to buy bonds.

The one-year certificates at three-quarters of one per cent. were oversubscribed sixteen times and this was a record low rate of interest for borrowing for such a period. The four-year notes at 2¾ per cent. were oversubscribed twenty times.

The borrowings were comparatively small, $250,000,000 of the certificates and $350,000,000 of the four-year notes.

For the Government, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Washington, the willingness of bankers to tie-up money for a year at the low interest rate of three-quarters of one per cent. "spelled anew huge resources for borrowing." It also meant, of course, a lower cost for carrying charges on the national debt.

But certain Treasury officials do not want us to take too much for granted. They point out, as the New York *Times* quotes them, that banks often pad their subscriptions in the expectation of an oversubscription, hoping to get a fair allotment if oversubscription is heavy. They also point out that most of the subscriptions come from New York banks and from big financial and industrial institutions. These experts are credited with considering it a debatable question what would happen if the Treasury were to offer short-term securities with these record low interest rates in sufficient volume to assure a distribution of two or three billions to cash subscribers. The general belief, we are told, "is that subscriptions would be in much smaller volume.

It is nothing to celebrate over, this cheap

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Treasury borrowing, insists *The Wall Street Journal*. Its real significance "is the extreme stagnation of trade and industry which makes it possible":

The Treasury can borrow apparently unlimited sums at unprecedentedly low rates because ten or eleven million men are walking the streets, because liquid capital is likewise unemployed in its ordinary uses, because its owners are reluctant to "take a chance" on anything but the national credit itself.

In so far as the oversubscription reflects the deprest state of the usual borrowers, it is not an optimistic event, agrees the Hartford *Courant*. But, it continues—

The demand is not an entirely unmixed evil, for it has resulted in a steady decrease in the interest rate, and even in the total amount of interest that has been paid on a mounting public debt during the depression. Where, in 1929, the Treasury paid $678,000,000 for interest alone, in 1932, it paid but $599,000,000. The proceeds of the last issue of four-year notes bearing 2¾ per cent. interest will in considerable measure go to redeem the 3¼ per cent. notes which matured on December 15, a saving in that one item of some $3,000,000 a year for the next four years.

In effect, by taking liberal advantage of the current demand for its securities, the Government of the United States is effecting an operation similar to Great Britain's and France's refunding of their internal war debts at lower rates of interest. Whereas the public debts of Great Britain and France are in the main in long-term securities, those of the United States are largely in shorter term notes, and consequently it is not necessary to perform the conversion operation at one stroke in this country.

That Bear Market Turning

HAS the bear market in securities turned?

That is a question that Mr. A. A. Winston, statistician for the Allied General Corporation, would like to have answered.

"And who wouldn't?" says a New York *Times* market writer.

Mr. Winston, it seems, has sent out one of those questionnaires to an assorted list of financial experts and authorities, and the writer for *The Times* sums up the results as follows:

Replying to the question whether the bear market in securities is over, or has "turned," 76 per cent. of those interrogated have given affirmative replies. There were negative replies from 5 per cent. and the remainder were "undecided."

Opinion was singularly uniform with respect to another question, "Which are the five industries whose securities should come back first?" The replies do not easily narrow down to a group of five industries, but of the twenty-three industries mentioned, ten were most favored.

In the order of their popularity they are: Chemicals and retailing, each of which received an equal vote; public utilities, motors, foods, rails, baking, oils, tobaccos, and consumer goods such as textiles and shoes. The preponderant preference was for the first three groups.

Dedicating the New Year *to* New Business

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PERSONAL GLIMPSES

"You Can't Describe a Hurricane," and Yet—

A HORSE SAILED OVER A CLIFF like a sea-gull.

Tombstones whizzed out of the churchyard and skittered along the beach.

A big stone house, with fourteen persons in it, suddenly collapsed.

All this he saw as the hurricane screamed and lasht and played its fiendish tricks, while five hundred helpless humans cowered and hung on for their lives.

"You can't describe a hurricane. The wind is simply an incredible force and the rain strikes you so hard that it left my back black and blue and skinned my face as you'd skin an animal."

Terrence Keogh, youthful, ruddy-faced world rover, "one of the last of a long line of Irish filibusterers," sat in a room in his aunt's home in New York and told of the hurricane that came as a smashing climax to the thrilling trip he made in the *Snug*, a twenty-foot sloop, from Cape Cod to Jamaica.

On that voyage his only companion was a one-volume edition of Shakespeare.

"Things always seem to happen to me," says Mr. Keogh, whose father was a New York Supreme Court Justice and whose great-great-uncle was Robert Emmet, the Irish patriot of immortal memory. And after reading the story he told to a reporter for the New York *Herald Tribune* one is ready to agree that things do, indeed, happen to him.

Keystone-Underwood

The Lone Navigator Has Filibuster Blood

"I had vile weather all the way down from Cape Cod," he said. "Southerly head winds that meant tacking constantly and six bad storms. It was cold the first day or so, but after I crossed the Gulf Stream it was all right." The management of his cockle-shell did not seem troublesome. Thus we read:

He described how he treated the storms, which he called "little dangerous in a boat as small as that." He would take all sail off, lash the tiller, put out a sea anchor, and retire to his cabin with his pipe and Shakespeare until the wind had gone down enough to make sailing sensible again.

"One of them lasted for three days and nights," he said, "and one of them fooled me.

"Of course, the only really difficult thing in such a small boat is staying on it. Sometimes that's something of a problem. About two hundred miles south of Bermuda, when I was twenty-five days out of Woods Hole, a bad blow came up. Nothing would have happened, except that the calm center passed right over us, and, therefore, the wind changed.

"Supplies were getting lowish, so I wanted to run before it. I went up and set the mainsail, and while I was at it I slipt, tript, on something, and went over.

"Fortunately, I had hold of a rope. In those circumstances you hang on pretty hard, and I was able to pull myself in."

The rest of his trip to Kingston was, he said, uneventful. He ran into the worst storm he has ever seen at sea, and only saved himself from being blown onto the lee shore of a small island by stripping all sail and hiking the *Snug* over a bar into a harbor. The storm past, he put in at Nassau for supplies, and was fêted there for ten days.

Arrived at Kingston on August 18, he found himself penniless, and raised the wind by selling the *Snug*.

On Sunday, September 4, we read, he was in the court-house at Green Turtle Cay, a settlement of five hundred whites on an islet off Abaco, one of the smaller Bahamas. Then came the hurricane, and here we pick up the narrative again:

"That Sunday night we had our first warning," he said. "Of course, before I left Nassau there had been storm warnings from Washington of a hurricane brewing by Turks Island, but that was so far away no one paid any attention.

"On Sunday night the whole eastern sky was pitch black.

"Monday morning there was a good gale, and rain in squalls. At noon I decided we were going to have real trouble, so I started for the general store to get some kerosene, so that I could lock myself in the court-house, which was a stone building, and read till it was over. By that time it was so bad you could barely walk, and shingles and bits of porches were getting kind of active.

"I got to the store, and ten minutes later it started."

THERE were five others in the building with him, two men and three women, and their immediate reaction, Mr. Keogh tells us, was to throw themselves face down on the floor and pray. Later:

"I looked out," he went on, "and the first thing I saw was a big stone house across the street, that I knew had fourteen people in it, go down before my eyes. It went in like a spokeless umbrella. I tried to go out to rescue some of them, but I could barely hold on to the side of the store. So I went back into the store.

"That didn't do much good, since the minute I got into it it took off like an airplane and sailed for what seemed like an hour, actually about a hundred feet, to land on some rocks with the floor boards bursting like an explosion."

He crawled out on his hands and knees, with his head well down, trying to find another place.

"Getting about was quite a business," he added. "I passed two or three corpses, and any amount of wreckage.

"I looked up once and saw two boats flying along overhead.

"I reached a house, where there were a man, his wife, and two children, and as soon as I got there the roof took off. The man had a broken leg, so the woman grabbed one child and I the other, and we started again, with the man crawling after.

"We were out fifteen minutes that time, but we finally got to a stone house which seemed to be standing up well. It had thirty people in it, all with hysterics."

Tuesday dawned, with wind and rain still strong, but the rescue work began. Every house on the island was down except the stone house in which Keogh had taken refuge. Three persons had been blown off the island. The wind had lifted the tombstones in the churchyard and deposited them on the beach. A horse had been dropt over a cliff "like a sea-gull." An iron wash-tub was found seven miles away on another island, and three houses had been taken across the channel to Abaco.

EIGHTEEN persons had been killed, and most of the live stock was buried in the ruins. Coming to the official record:

The velocity of the wind as registered Monday morning was 160 miles an hour.

"In point of fact," said Mr. Keogh, bringing the attention back to the quiet dining-room by pausing for a moment to light the pipe that had accompanied Shakespeare, "the island was a complete, absolute wreck."

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for DECEMBER 31, 1932

VOLUME 114 NUMBER 27

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Making an Island Homelike.—AUTHOR—"I've got a good tale here about a man and two women on a desert island."

EDITOR—"Good heavens, man, that plot's as old as the hills."

AUTHOR—"Not this one—these women are his wife and his wife's mother!"—*Philadelphia Star.*

After You, My Dear Gaston!—A customer sent the following note to his grocer:

"Please send six dozen eggs; if good, I will send check."

The grocer, however, was not doing any business on such risky terms, so he replied:

"Send check; if good, I will send six dozen eggs."—*Montreal Star.*

Why Not Aaron?—The circus was doing badly and funds sank lower and lower. At last the cashier pinned up a notice announcing that in future salaries would be paid as funds permitted, and that artists would be paid in the alphabetical order of names.

Next day Zero, the strong man, called on the cashier.

"I have come," he said, "to tell you that I have changed my name."

"Oh!" replied the cashier. "And what are you going to call yourself now?"

"Achilles."—*Tit-Bits.*

How to Enchant Your Husband.—BUTTERSCOTCH—"You say that Gaybird loves his wife more since she has sued another woman for alienation of affections?"

MILK-TOAST—"Yes, he never suspected before that his wife considered his affections worth $100,000."—*Jokesmith.*

Pass the Tape Measure.—PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER—"I'm afraid your make of car does not suit us. My fiancée can not reach the brakes and the steering-wheel at the same time."

SALESMAN—"But, sir, the car is perfect. Why not try a new girl?"—*Tit-Bits.*

Footpad (to mate): "We'll 'ave to get a pitch nearer town, Bill. This bloke's been 'eld up three times before 'e got 'ere."

—"The Humorist" (London).

Grateful Gesture.—"Hello, Jones! Got a new car?"

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"May I speak to him?"

"When he comes out."

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Be a Copy-Cat.—LODGER—"Madam, this morning when I bathed I found only a nail-brush in the bathroom. I can't wash my back with a nail-brush."

LANDLADY—"Well, you've a tongue in your 'ead, 'aven't you?"

LODGER—"Yes, but I'm no swan."—*The Weekly Telegraph (London).*

Obscure Text.—A young wife, wishing to announce the birth of her first child to a friend in a distant city, telegraphed:

"Isaiah 9:6." Which passage begins, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Her friend, not familiar with the Scriptures, said to her husband:

"Margaret evidently has a boy who weighs nine pounds and six ounces, but why on earth did they name him Isaiah?"—*The Congregationalist.*

Slips That Pass in the Night

Lucky Einstein Is Coming.—To-day is only three minutes shorter than the shortest day of the year will be.—*Boston Post.*

Complicated Family.—Miller P—— and son enjoyed a week-end visit at the parental home of their son Dan, in Minneapolis.—*South Dakota paper.*

Throw Up Your Hats! Rah! Rah! Rah!—Christmas vacation at the Riverhead High School will begin on December 21 at noon and will be resumed on Wednesday, January 4.—*New York paper.*

For Idol Relief?—The people of North East and community are urged to contribute canned gods.—*Elkton (Md.) paper.*

Good Hunting.—Deer hunters are plenty, and several have been shot in this vicinity.—*Bradford (Vt.) United Opinion.*

Fair and Wormer.—Oliver Tyler married 43 years ago. For 23 years he was divorced. Now he has married his wormer wife again.—*Hartford Times.*

Spare a Posy for the Engineer.—The bridge was attired in tan crêpe with accessories to match, and wore a corsage of roses and lilies of the valley.—*Connecticut paper.*

Who's His Dentist?—The former New York Governor wore the same sort of brown derby he did during the 1928 campaign, and he chewed on a long chair in the same restless fashion.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer Journal.*

Famous General Under Fire.—The entire organization has not been completed, but they were inviting all of the Forest Hills club members who wanted to try their hand at shooting clay pigeons and the general public.—*Long Island paper.*

Man Helpless Before Cosmetics.—The program included a talk on "The Manufacture of Soap," and a discussion of cosmetic rays, their history, the nature of their causes, the chemistry involved and the formation of the rays and their effects on man.—*Adrian (Mich.) paper.*

New Uses for Pants.—For animal shapes, use covered ice-cream molds, or chill in deep pants and cut out with animal cookie cutter.—*Miami Daily News.*

WILL ROGERS'S RAGGED PANTS CONCEAL A HEART OF GOLD
—*Chicago Daily News.*

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